Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-92-061 *30 March 1992*

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Venezuela

Hamburg DPA reports that on 29 March Caracas military prison authorities "quelled a rebellion among the officers arrested after the February uprising." According to the report, 1,000 sympathizers gathered outside the prison. A later NOTIMEX report states that the imprisoned leaders also issued a document accusing President Perez of "treason against the fatherland." The rebels are demanding a halt to negotiations with Colombia over the Gulf of Venezuela.

Haiti

Port-au-Prince radio reports that Haiti's Supreme Court ruled "unconstitutional" the OAS-brokered agreement reached in Washington on 23 February, declaring it "a violation of the principle of the separation of powers as provided by the Constitution."

Jamaica

The People's National Party of Jamaica has elected Percival J. Patterson to replace ailing Michael Manley as party president and prime minister, AFP reports. Patterson, who will be sworn in on 30 March, is expected to continue the economic adjustment plan designed by Manley "to incorporate the Caribbean island into the free market system."

Panama

According to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, on 26 March President Endara announced the creation of a crisis "reaction group" drawn from members of the Judicial Technical Police, National Police, Institutional Protection Service, and the Attorney General's Office. The special anticrime unit, to be trained by the U.S. Armed Forces, will be under the direct orders of the president.

Chile

Santiago radio carries a report on Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro's visit. Chamorro met with President Aylwin and signed agreements establishing an "exchange of experts, scholarships for specialized studies, and the creation of research institutes and laboratories." During a dinner in Chamorro's honor, President Aylwin "praised the Nicaraguan Government for strongly supporting the peace-seeking process in Central America."

Inter-American Affairs

Buenos Aires radio reports on 27 March that the foreign ministers of the Rio Group have issued a position statement on political, social, and economic issues of regional interest. The statement reiterates their concern that Cuba "consider the presidential declaration signed in Cartagena last year in which they urged Cuba to seek a definitive democratization process."

Menem Opens Rio Group Foreign Ministers Meeting

PY2603230892 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Excerpt] President Carlos Menem this morning dedicated the conference of Rio Group foreign ministers, which will pave the way for the presidential summit that will be held in Buenos Aires by the end of the year. Menem arrived at Alvear Palace Hotel and immediately went to the rostrum, where he spoke to the foreign ministers of the group's 13 member countries.

Accompanied by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, Menem said that the Rio Group, both within the Latin American framework and as a representative of the region before the rest of the world, represents the best political instrument to act as interlocutor with the rest of the world.

Referring to the group's objective, Menem said it is not yet complete and he added that democracy and liberty must be preserved with all our efforts. [passage omitted]

Ministers Issue Declaration

PY2803003392 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2012 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (TELAM)—The foreign ministers of the Rio Group member countries today agreed to support the consolidation of democracies in the continent, singling out Cuba, Venezuela, and Haiti. They stress the need for economic reorganization and cooperation to fight drug trafficking and terrorism.

The 13 foreign ministers of the mechanism for consultation and political agreement met for two days behind closed doors in this capital. At the end of the meeting they issued a 12-point declaration explaining their positions on political, social, and economic issues of regional and international interest.

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella was the group's spokesman. He summarized the declaration during a brief news conference at the end of the third working session today.

The Argentine foreign minister said that the political processes in Haiti, Cuba, and Venezuela, the economic reorganization of Latin America, and ways to cooperate in the struggle against drug trafficking and terrorism were "the most important issues on which there was general agreement."

The foreign ministers "reject any attempt to subvert the institutional order of countries whose governments were freely elected by their peoples."

Within that context, they reiterate their "repudiation of the attempted coup d'etat in Venezuela" on 4 February. They express their "concern for restoring Haiti's legitimate authorities," stressing the efforts of the community to return deposed President Bertrand Aristide to power.

The situation in Cuba received special consideration. The foreign ministers encourage Cuba to consider the presidential declaration signed in Cartagena last year in which they urged Cuba to seek a definitive democratization process.

The Argentine foreign minister quoted the presidents who met in Cartagena, stating that this "is not merely a ritual" because "there is full agreement among group members over the democratization of Cuba."

An Argentine diplomatic source said, however, that Mexico applied the "brakes" on an attempt by some foreign ministers to adopt a harsher and more blunt position on Cuba's political situation.

Regarding the struggle against international terrorism, the foreign ministers express their willingness "to end this scourge." Foreign Minister Di Tella said that the foreign ministers achieved progress in the creation of mechanisms for cooperation among the different intelligence services in the struggle against terrorism."

The joint declaration also speaks of the Latin American and Caribbean social and economic situation, stressing the "deep changes in favor of modernizing local economies and thus raising the standard of living of regional peoples."

Foreign Minister Di Tella said that the reorganization of the economies within Latin America is an issue that raises concern but the group concluded that "the price being paid for the adjustments is not the result of current policies but of the reality of the individual countries."

The communique expresses "satisfaction at the decisive progress of the Central American pacification process, dialogue, and reconciliation," and stresses the importance of the upcoming meeting between the Rio Group and the EEC at the end of May.

The foreign ministers also recognize the need to preserve the environment during the move toward development. They demand a tougher stand in the fight against drug trafficking.

Regarding arms control, the declaration mentions global arms proliferation, particularly of mass destruction weapons. The foreign ministers recognize the importance of the steps taken by some regional countries on the Tlatelolco Treaty, seeking the implementation of this instrument in the entire region.

The foreign ministers state that during the meeting they also discussed issues like the Americas Initiative and the modernization of the inter-American system for energy security, social development, and international trade.

The Rio Group comprises Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Mexico. Honduras participated, representing Central America, and Jamaica represented the Caribbean.

Democratization of Cuba Urged

PY2803022692 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] At noon today Rio Group foreign ministers agreed to defend the need to strengthen democracy in the continent, and urged Cuba to walk on the path toward its definite democratization. This was announced by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella during a news conference at Alvear Palace Hotel at the end of a meeting of the foreign ministers, during which a note was released repudiating terrorist attacks.

Sir Shridath Calls For Caribbean Commonwealth

FL2803004592 Bridgetown CANA in English 2152 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Washington, March 27, CANA—Sir Shridath Ramphal, chairman of the West Indian Commission, on Friday called for the creation of a commonwealth of states of the Caribbean and Central America. He made the recommendation while addressing a special session at the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Washington.

Sir Shridath said the commonwealth he was proposing should be one "from the Bahamas in the north to Suriname in the south, from Central America in the west to Barbados in the east, a commonwealth encompassing the states, the governments, the peoples of the entire Caribbean, of the islands of the sea, and the coastal states whose shores are washed by that sea." He said without reservation that "in that Caribbean Commonwealth we would see all the islands, including the not yet independent islands playing a substantive part."

Asked by the Canadian permanent representative to the OAS, Ambassador Jean-Paul Hubert, on the role Cuba could have in such a commonwealth, Sir Shridath responded that "Cuba should have a place in the commonwealth and any country in the region which wishes to join, should be welcomed." Ambassador Hubert mentioned the recent trip by the 15-member West Indian Commission to Cuba and the fact that an improvement of relations between that country and the current government of Grenada has been achieved as a results of Dr. Ramphal's efforts.

Sir Shridath outlined in his opening remarks the objectives of the West Indian Commission and said "it has been listening to many voices because we have acted through a process of public consultation with the people of the Caribbean. But we have heard, I believe overwhelmingly, a voice that is authentically regional espousing not only a regional identity, but a regional aspiration for doing things together in ways that will better the condition of Caribbean people."

He pointed out that this "yearning for betterment.... looks, for example, towards more civil societies, towards more open government, towards participation in governments beyond the ballot box, towards a better chance for social and economic achievement for the average individual."

He declared that "we have listened in this particular context with anguish to West Indian complaints about the hassle of travel with in our own region. We have heard with dismay the views of our own people about the tiresomeness of currency distortions within our own economic community. We have heard with disquiet the anxieties with regard to declining standards of primary and secondary education in many places, of deterioration of health care, of widening unemployment."

He warned that "we have to recognize that whatever our technological accomplishments on the road to economic integration, its goals will remain forever distant unless these requirements for the fulfillment of basic human needs within our region are met in an adequate manner."

The West Indian Commission is studying proposals for the future course of action of Caribbean Community member states within the changing international environment.

In responding to the call by Sir Shridath for the establishment of a Central American-Caribbean Commonwealth, the permanent representative of Honduras to the OAS, Ambassador Juan Jose Cueva, speaking on behalf of all the Central American delegations, said:

"The countries of Central America wish to ratify the commitment of our governments and peoples to work closely with the Caribbean in the search for a common future which would be of benefit to all of us." He emphasized in that context the agreements reached at the recent meeting in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, by the ministers of foreign affairs of the Caribbean and Central America.

Chilean Ambassador Heraldo Munoz invited Sir Shridath Ramphal to attend the upcoming high-level seminar on international trade, the environment, and sustainable development, which will be held in Santiago, Chile on April 21 and 22. He then called for an improvement in communication between Latin America and the Caribbean because "I believe there is a lot more bringing us together than separating us."

He added: "We are bound together by friendship, geography, a commonality of problems, a coinciding history and, most important, I would say, a yearn for representative democracy which constitutes today an unseparable bond between our governments and peoples."

Venezuelan Ambassador Guido Grooscors said that his country "has undertaken and continues to promote specific initiatives for the Caribbean region in the political and commercial areas, aimed at strengthening our relations with all Caribbean nations."

U.S. permanent representative, Ambassador Luigi R. Einaudi, made in response to Dr. Ramphal's remarks an analysis of the current situation in the hemisphere and said: "We continue to face a very major crisis" in the context of the situation in Haiti.

Cuba

Havana Notes U.S. Debate on Military Cutbacks

FL2703175292 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1509 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The restructuring of the U.S. Armed Forces, in response to the end of the Cold War and domestic budget reductions, continues to provoke strong disagreement between the White House and Congress. The announcement made by Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney and Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, concerning cuts affecting the four branches of the military in that country has provoked strong protests on the Hill.

In an attempt to evade criticism by legislators and politicians, majority liberal democrats who are seeking adjustments in military expenses, Cheney anticipates a reduction of up to 140,000 soldiers in several military institutions within a period of five years. The head of the Pentagon added that the National Guard, Army Reserve, Marines, Air Force, and Navy would be the most affected. According to Cheney and Powell, the reduction leaves the United States sufficient power to remain without a rival.

Collective U.S. Military Action Speculated

FL2703231692 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2053 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] News sources say that the U.S. Government seems to be excited about pursuing the idea of internationalizing possible military interventions in Latin America, following the pattern of the Gulf War. THE NEW YORK TIMES alleged that now is the time to create a new inter-American force that could protect democratic goverments; this seems to refer specifically to the Haitian coup, the military uprising in Venezuela, and the armed conflict in Peru. Using these examples, Washington is trying to find justifications to reach an agreement that will support an eventual foreign intervention.

Latin American political analysts say there is a lack of information that would allow them to know whether a consensus exists on the collectivization of a military action by the White House against any country threatening its interests.

Havana on DPRK Article Against U.S. Policy

FL2803193092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] A newspaper published in the DPRK denounced in its last publication the U.S. Government aggression against Cuba. The publication, PYONGYANG NEWS, which is circulated nationally and internationally, pointed out that in only five years, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency tried unsuccessfully, on more than 20 occasions, to assassinate Cuban President Fidel Castro. The publication states that today the United States considers that territory as a vital means of pursuing its ambition of dominating the world.

The North Korean newspaper adds that the U.S. Government defined as its objectives, in applying aggressive policies, all countries that defend their sovereignty and independence and that do not submit to anyone. The newspaper also states that the annual fund for these objectives increased from $10 billion in the seventies to more than $30 billion in the last two years.

Commentary on Torricelli Bill Debate in Congress

PA2803180792 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Miguel Cabrera commentary]

[Text] A bitter dispute has erupted in recent meetings of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee because of a project named after its promoter, Robert Torricelli. This project is designed to reinforce the economic blockade the U.S. Government has maintained against Cuba for more than 30 years.

The project, developed by the most prominent members of the Cuban counterrevolution in Florida, was opposed by those who, despite their opposition to the process Cuba is going through, have a less vicious and reactionary position with respect to relations between Washington and Havana.

The project, known as the Document for Democracy in Cuba, another name for the Torricelli project, was considered a virtual declaration of economic war against Cuba and its people. One of the politicians involved in the project indicated that, through his proposal, Torricelli intends to starve the Cuban people in the name of human rights and democratic ideals.

The anti-Cuban proposal was criticized for including sanctions against third countries that engage in trade with Cuba. In that sense, it has been said more developed countries such as Germany, Spain, Canada, and the United Kingdom for decades have refused to participate in the U.S. isolation policy against Cuba. The same has been said of small countries such as the Bahamas and Panama.

Another representative at the House of Representative's meeting indicated that many persons in exile have made sure the quarrel between Cuba and the United States is a relevant issue in the current presidential campaign, and that it is being treated accordingly.

A speaker demanded that Washington reiterate that it has no intention of attacking Cuba militarily and called for negotiations with Havana to solve the problems that exist between the two countries. Several representatives, who are among the most reactionary members of the Cuban counterrevolution in the United States, naturally supported the Torricelli proposal, attacked those who

opposed their aggressive [word indistinct], and even asked for more pressure against Cuba.

The House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee meeting is further evidence of the differing positions among Cubans living in the United States with regard to how relations with Havana should be handled. The Cuban Government has not lost the support of the majority of our people, nor has it given any sign of losing strength in its effort to maintain socialism and preserve independence.

Castro Debates Health Issues at Parlatino Session

PA2703201492 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro on the evening of 26 March held a broad debate with the delegates attending the meeting of the Permanent Commission of Health, Labor, and Social Security of the Latin American Parliament [Parlatino], which is taking place in Havana.

After listening to spokesmen read the reports for the two working groups, Castro expressed an interest in learning about the uniform system of health services to which the Latin American countries aspire. He questioned neoliberal policies as a means of carrying out development projects in such areas as health and social security. Castro pointed out the efforts Cuba is making to confront the economic restrictions imposed on the country by distributing its resources, beginning with priorities and without stopping development. In conclusion, Castro said health problems have not even been resolved in the developed countries, because it is a matter of political resolve rather than a matter of resources.

The Parlatino meeting in Havana agreed that control of the cholera epidemic affecting many Latin American countries will depend on the creation of an adequate infrastructure of aqueducts and sewage systems, although it is quite important to have a vaccine.

Deputies and senators from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Bolivia, Peru, Guatemala, Venezuela, and Cuba pointed to poverty as the determining factor in the spread of the cholera epidemic. Most of the legislators attributed the deterioration of welfare coverage in almost all of the countries of the region to traditional underdevelopment and a deepening of the economic crisis.

The Parlatino working groups said the privatization of social security in Latin America, far from eliminating the crisis faced by workers in the region, has intensified it. Reports by both subcommissions will be presented on 27 March for discussion by the Permanent Commission of Health, Labor, and Social Security.

Russians Negotiate on Completion of Nuclear Plant

PA2903005292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2049 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Cienfuegos, 28 Mar (NOTIMEX) —Cuba and Russia have begun negotiations to complete the "Juragua" nuclear electrical plant, considered the Cuban Revolution's most important project by Fidel Castro's government.

A delegation from Moscow is currently visiting the province of Cienfuegos to negotiate with Cuban authorities new conditions for completing construction of two Russian-made reactors, which will enable Cuba to save more than 1.2 million tons of oil.

Pedro Abigantus Leon, deputy director of the project, has said that the Cuban Government has initiated talks with Russian representatives to continue receiving the necessary material.

He stressed that "the project has not been suspended," adding that the first of the two reactors will be ready by the end of this year.

The Cuban Government began construction of the Juragua nuclear electrical plant in the province of Cienfuegos 10 years ago.

Cuban authorities have described the project, which will cost $2 billion, as "the project of the century," particularly now that the country is facing an energy crisis and its main partner, the USSR, has disintegrated.

Approximately 12,000 workers, working three shifts, are engaged in the construction of the two reactors.

Each reactor will enable Cuba to save 600,000 tons of oil per year and will provide approximately 25 percent of the country's energy consumption.

According to Cuban experts, the VVER-440 reactors have a "dependable system of operation, safety, and protection from any eventuality."

Abigantus said that the reactor, built with Russian technology, can be remotely controlled and independent of the man operating it. In addition, it has three security systems that interact automatically, he added.

"The Juragua Plant was designed with the most widely used technology for nuclear reactors and has many advantages, including safety indicators," he explained.

Abigantus added that the reactor for the Juragua Plant is similar to those in several East European countries and in several CIS republics.

He stressed that the main building can resist an earthquake measuring up to 8 degrees in the MSK scale, gigantic tidal waves, pressure from strong sound waves caused by a nearby explosion, or the possible crash of an airplane weighing up to 20 tons.

After touring the installations, it was confirmed that the construction of the two reactors is progressing normally. The first reactor should be ready by December.

The first sections of the plant's main equipment will be installed next week, and the remaining sections to be received from Russia will be installed gradually, according to the negotiations currently taking place between the two countries.

Diplomatic Relations With Armenia Established

FL2703220192 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2047 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Alcibiades Hidalgo and Armenian Deputy Minister Arman Navasardyan agreed today to establish diplomatic relations. The delegations from both countries also signed a cooperation agreement between the Cuban and Armenian Foreign Ministries, which have expressed an interest in improving bilateral relations for their mutual benefit.

Hidalgo also met with Gevorg Vardanyan, Armenian first deputy prime minister. They discussed general topics and cooperation between Havana and Yerevan. Armenia, located in the south of the Caucasus between the Black and Caspian Seas, has a population of 3,280,000 and almost 29,800 sq km of land, 70 percent of which is mountains where marble, copper, gold, iron, and silver are mined.

Quebec Businessmen Agree To Supply Spare Parts

PA2803193892 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Representatives from 10 Canadian corporations visiting Cuba have expressed their satisfaction with the commercial contacts they were able to establish, and with the great number of plans for commercial exchange they will develop with different Cuban organizations.

It was reported in Havana that the delegation from the Canadian Province of Quebec signed an agreement with Cuban representatives to supply spare parts for Cuba's railroads and ships.

Julie L'Oranger, Canadian ambassador to Cuba, has indicated that in 1991 some corporations from Quebec increased their exports to Cuba by 90 percent, while Cuban exports to Canada reached $60 million.

Galician Delegation Returns to Spain

FL2703162892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The delegation of Galician mayors, town councillors, and other authorities visiting Havana since 18 March has departed for its own country. Jose Ramon Fernandez, the vice president of the Council of Ministers, saw the delegation off at the airport. The delegation was headed by Oleiros Mayor Angel Garcia Seoane. During its visit to Cuba, the group was received by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and visited sites of economic, social, and political interest.

These Galician authorities waged a campaign of solidarity with Cuba in their respective municipalities and collected 11 tons of medicine and scholastic materials, which are on their way to our country by sea. Shortly before he left, Garcia Seoane declared that the delegation members will continue waging, in Galicia, this campaign of solidarity with Cuba, and that they are returning home very happy with the welcome they received and pleasantly impressed by what they saw.

Castro Speaks at Science Union Congress

FL2703195592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Excerpt] As we have already mentioned, the Constituent Congress of the Science Workers Union today began its session at the Convention Center with the attendance of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Of the 330 delegates from educational, production, and research centers, 83 percent work directly in research while the rest support these efforts.

In the morning session, the congress analyzed priorities in the sciences and how to disseminate the main scientific results, especially those that will allow the country to succeed despite the current difficulties. Journalist Juan Carlos Roque Garcia has some notes on this constituent congress, which will continue until tomorrow.

[Roque] As you may remember, the initiative was presented by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at the last congress of the Education, Science, and Sports Workers Union when he said: It is not possible, and especially not now in the special period, to do without a science workers union. It is impossible when you see the work this union does and could do in promoting these activities.

The time between the initial idea of creating this union and its realization is short. The almost two months of organizational work and the holding of assemblies at the base level were proof of the complete identification of workers with forming the union and their desire to become part of it. The direct work of the union with the masses will now be a decisive factor in achieving the action that will allow the continued strengthening of relations between researchers, technicians, and workers in charge of spreading their results to production, education, and services on a national level.

It was at this session of the constituent congress, where the results of applied research are being presented, that Fidel spoke of the multidisciplinary groups in agriculture.

[Begin Castro recording] There are some enterprises that are tripling their production in relation to 1990. An example is the enterprise in Batabano. But all the state enterprises are more than doubling their production in relation to 1990. I can see the efforts of scientists in these

results. They are playing a role. Without this, there would not be [word indistinct]. We have some peasant scientists. There is a small group—I wish they were all scientists—there is a small group of very outstanding peasants, and we have appointed them to be advisers. [end recording]

With the holding of this congress the National Science Workers Union has emerged as the third integrating force of all scientific efforts. In the past, the union movement in this sector was organized to oversee the activities of fundamental research and its administrative support. This did not allow the integration and the exchange needed for this work. [passage omitted]

Research Center Cooperation

FL2803170192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Open and honest dialogue among delegates at the Constituent Congress of the Science Workers Union, marked by the receptiveness of our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, characterized the first day of sessions of this historic event, which will end today at the Convention Center. Aspects such as integration and mechanisms to strengthen collaboration among different institutions were discussed as a way to make proper use of available resources, especially those that are difficult to obtain. During the plenary session with researchers of the medical field, Fidel said:

[Begin Castro recording] I believe that, despite the way resources are distributed, we cannot avoid cooperation among institutions. It is impossible to avoid cooperation. There are—I was thinking about this—21 medical faculties. Any one of them can begin research on any kind of matter. From there they must make an inventory of unused resources. I do not know what these resources may be, but there are usually unused resources. In any research center there may be unused or little-used equipment. How could we resolve this practically if not through cooperation among institutions?

One center can help another by cooperating or doing something for it without selfishness. A center may have a good idea and they may say: Gosh, I would like to develop this idea. At that moment two things could happen. One thing that could happen is what you have said. They can come to work at the center, which I believe is here in Havana. Right? [unknown person confirms his statement] And they can receive help. The other thing that could happen would be that if the center has resources which are not that important or fundamental, and which are not needed for other investigations, they could [word indistinct] or they could help them.

It seems to me that if such a situation occurs we need objectively to analyze what would be more beneficial: whether they need to come here, or whether the center could provide them with resources for their research. [end recording]

During the course of today's meeting, the structural organization of the new workers union will be analyzed and its national committee will be elected.

Technicians To Repair Combat Plane Engines

FL2703162792 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The technical personnel of an Air Force fighter plane brigade in the central region is, for the first time, repairing combat aircraft engines. Work of such scope and complexity used to be done only at more specialized repair facilities inside Cuba or abroad. The decision to take on this new task is part of this technical unit's desire to comply with the requirements of the special period and shows us how qualified its engineers and technicians are.

A great effort had to be made to train this work group so it could assume responsibility for repairing these engines. Tools of a very specific nature even had to be manufactured. The first engines repaired showed a high degree of reliability during the final checks and are currently in combat planes that are flying missions.

UJC Considers Including Religious Believers

PA2803013292 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The Union of Young Communists [UJC] of Cuba will discuss ways to broaden the organization's base without sacrificing its right to select its members. The discussion will take place during the organization's sixth congress to begin on 31 March.

An analytical report on this main issue of the meeting stresses that the country's best young people must join the organization and, for the first time, includes religious believers among those who may aspire to join. Thus, the UJC is proposing that its membership grow with unmarried youths, without considering their religious beliefs. This constitutes a new step for this organization, as the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] previously approved such a move.

The UJC members clearly state in their report to the congress that this is more than just a formality, as they are defending a widening of ideas within the organization. This, in the long run, is more important than the philosophical differences between believers and atheists.

An observer might ask why the UJC makes this move now. The first answer has to do with the political maturing process that has been going on in Cuba for the last few years. The UJC insists that because it is facing problems that require the sensitivity, patriotism, and action of every single citizen, believers who feel as Cubans cannot be pushed aside. The UJC also intends to continue its efforts to achieve a fresher and more dynamic style like that recently achieved under the direction of Roberto Robaina, its current first secretary.

The members of the UJC define themselves as opposites to inertia and boredom, and say that they do not lack initiative or happiness. Concurrently, however, they claim to seek specific goals and to enhance discipline at work and study centers, and at military units wherever there is a UJC chapter.

The congress report informs those adversaries who would like to see a division between the PCC and the UJC, that the UJC is not seeking power, because, according to the document, it fully exercises the people's power along side the PCC, the government, and the state's institutions.

Haiti

Supreme Court Rules Agreement Unconstitutional

FL2703214692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2000 GMT 27 March 92

[Text] The Supreme Court has ruled as unconstitutional the Washington agreement and the convening of the National Assembly by the Parliament. The Supreme Court judges have therefore provided their deliberations following a request from the executive.

The provisional government had solicited the intervention of this Court to come to a decision regarding the legal implications of the agreement.

Supreme Court Statement

FL2703230692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2100 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Statement by Court of Cassation President Emile Jonassaint, in Port-au-Prince; dated 27 March]

[Excerpt] This afternoon, the Supreme Court reached a decision which ruled the Washington agreement and the convening of the National Assembly unconstitutional. Let us listen to the President of the Supreme Court.

[Begin Justice Jonassaint recording] The Court, agreeing in its conclusions with the Public Ministry, declares that it was legitimately referred to the conflict between the executive and the parliament regarding the 23 February agreement, and states and declares: The signing of this document by the parliamentarians mentioned above constitutes a violation of the principle of the separation of powers as provided by the Constitution, in its Articles 60, 60-1, 60-2. The document resulting from the agreement is null and void and could not, contrary to the provisions of Articles 98-2 and 98-3 of our Charter, be submitted for ratification by the National Assembly. [end recording].

That was the president of the Supreme Court, Justice Emile Jonassaint, announcing this decision. [passage omitted]

Priest Rejects Verdict

FL2703173692 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Father Yvon Massacre says the provisional executive is hurting the Court of Cassation by trying to make it take a stand on the 23 February 1992 agreement protocol. Father Yvon Massacre also thinks that the Court of Cassation may not provide a verdict on this agreement protocol which is a solution to the 30 September 1991 coup. Father Massacre quotes Article 93 of the penal code and Article 3 of the 12 May 1920 Law that forbids political deliberations in court.

[Massacre] [passage omitted] The agreement protocol is a solution to the 30 September coup. The Court of Cassation cannot give a verdict on the unconstitutionality of the agreement protocol or the unconstitutionality of its ratification in National Assembly without first giving a verdict on the unconstitutionality of the coup and the unconstitutionality of the provisional executive resulting from it. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] According to Father Yvon Massacre, the ratification of the agreement protocol is not a matter of constitutionality. It is rather a matter of political adherence. The Fermathe region parish priest says the application of Article 149 is a violation of the Constitution because, in his opinion, it is former Prime Minister Rene Preval who should have convened the Parliament in National Assembly. Father Massacre considers the executive's request a trap and warns the judges of the Court of Cassation not to fall into this trap. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Deputy Urges Rejection

FL2703193592 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Deputy Gerard Evanns Beaubrun suggests that the Supreme Court reject the executive's request to provide a verdict on the constitutionality of the protocol agreement, and that it declare that the Parliament can ratify the document in National Assembly.

In a memorandum to the judges of the Supreme Court, the deputy of the first district of Leogane has pointed out five errors that the executive had intentionally included in the request it sent to the Supreme Court before the National Assembly session of 18 March. Deputy Beaubrun advises the judges of the Supreme Court that the case set forth by the executive is not the main element that should interest them. This case is, however, the result of a number of events that have been occurring in the country since 1987 and that have always brought the country's Constitution into question.

Deputy Beaubrun has also picked out six major violations that have been committed against the Constitution since 7 February 1991. It has been these very violations that entailed the 23 February protocol agreement. The

Leogane deputy, who believes it is his duty to defend the people, hopes the Supreme Court will reject the executive's request and will declare that the parliamentarians can ratify the agreement protocol in the National Assembly.

FNCD on Respect For Constitution, Agreement

FL2703225792 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 27 Mar 92

["Report" by correspondent Rothschild Francois on a news conference held by National Front for Change and Democracy spokesman Evans Paul in Port-au-Prince on 27 March]

[Text] The National Front For Change and Democracy, FNCD, speaks out for respect for the Constitution and the ratification of the Washington agreement. The FNCD met with the press this morning. Several members of the diplomatic corps attended this news conference held two days before the commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the referendum on the Constitution. Evans Paul, FNCD spokesman, was the only speaker at the conference. Rothschild Francois has this report.

[Begin recording] [Rothschild] In front of several representatives of the diplomatic corps, the FNCD has sent a call for the respect of the Constitution for a month. [sentence as heard] The FNCD leader, who was meeting with the press as well as with the FNCD parliamentary bloc, pleaded in favor of the ratification of the agreement to pull the country out of the crisis. On the eve of observing the Constitution's fifth anniversary, FNCD is blaming the sectors which are hiding behind nationalism to make believe that this Constitution is not made for Haiti. The FNCD recognizes and accepts the defense of the Constitution by pointing out that the Mother Law has no responsibility in what is taking place now in Haiti. On the contrary, if Haiti is in a crisis today, it is because the leaders refuse to respect the Constitution.

The FNCD stipulates that the agreement is constitutional. It is an agreement which has been concluded by representatives mandated by the Haitian people. FNCD leaders Evans Paul and Victor Benoit are calling for the application of the Washington agreement and invite the different players to shoulder their responsibilities while denouncing the threats toward the Haitian Parliament.

[Paul] I would like to draw the public's attention, in the country as well as abroad, on the dangers threatening the Parliament. We are sending a call to all parliamentarians. We do not make any distinctions. Do not forget the saying: When you teach a monkey to throw stones, the monkey breaks your head. The game being played with the de facto government can lead to its own deposition. Today we are witnessing numerous maneuvers: corruption, repression, and rivalry among parliamentary groups where parliamentarians are threatening each other with guns. They are using all these tactics to find pretexts to break the foundation of the only legitimate institution existing in the country. As for the people who are plundering the country now, who are plundering the state treasury, and who are holding the country hostage and want to destroy it, let us remind them of the words attributed to Jean-Jacques Dessalines [founding father]: Pluck the chicken but do not let it cackle. [end recording]

Those were statements made by Evans Paul during this FNCD news conference. The FNCD is calling for the respect of the Constitution and the party has issued a bulletin entitled: "Kok Kalite." There will be more details on this news conference on the evening newscast. It is worth noting the presence of several members of the diplomatic corps, including Dominican Ambassador Jose del Carmen Acosta, Canadian Ambassador Bernard Dussault, and representatives of the French, American, and Chinese Embassies.

Jamaica

PNP Delegates Choose Patterson as Leader

PA2903021992 Paris AFP in Spanish 2316 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Kingston, 28 Mar (AFP)—The convention of delegates of the ruling People's National Party (PNP) of Jamaica on 28 March elected Percival J. Patterson as party president and, consequently, as prime minister of the country, replacing Michael Manley, a party spokesperson reported here.

Patterson, former deputy prime minister and former finance and planning minister, defeated his principal opponent, Labor, Welfare, and Sports Minister Portia Simpson, garnering twice as many votes among the 300 delegates who met to choose the new party leader.

Patterson, 53, was promoted during his brief campaign as a deft administrator, expert negotiator, and a guarantee for the continuation of the economic adjustment plan designed in 1989 by outgoing Manley to incorporate the Caribbean island into the free market system.

The newly elected prime minister, who will be sworn in on 30 March, was always considered Manley's natural successor, despite the shadow cast on his image by his participation in a shady deal with the transnational Shell Petroleum company, which caused him to leave the post of deputy prime minister.

Manley, who resigned from his post for health reasons, was supposed to conclude his term in 1994.

Trinidad and Tobago

Manning Details $27 Million World Bank Loan

FL2803005092 Bridgetown CANA in English 2203 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 27, CANA—In a move with far-reaching implications, Trinidad and Tobago has announced that from April 7 non-residents

can hold foreign exchange accounts in local banks. Prime Minister Patrick Manning, in giving details of a U.S. 27 million dollar World Bank loan to boost private sector expansion, also said Thursday "net exporters" would be granted unrestricted use of local foreign currency accounts. The two moves are part of steps in the Caribbean to dismantle foreign exchange controls and further open up economies to foreign investment.

Jamaica, under two years ago, allowed foreigners and locals to hold foreign exchange accounts as part of a policy aimed at stimulating trade and attracting foreign business such as off shore banking, data entry, and exempt insurance operations. Prior to the Jamaica move to liberalise its foreign exchange control regime that country's businessmen had to compete for scarce foreign exchange to buy raw materials and other goods, which served to retard trade.

Trinidad and Tobago can also expect to benefit from foreign investors requiring a regime that allows them to move money into and out of the country easily. Details of the banking arrangements to be set up in Trinidad and Tobago were not immediately clear.

Manning said the World Bank loan was to assist the private sector in business expansion and industrial restructuring and priority would be given to companies with a potential to increase foreign exchange earnings. Manning said the money would allow for credit financing of plant expansion and re-tooling, working capital funding, worker re-training, and technical assistance in all areas of production and marketing activities. He added that these initiatives were aimed at bringing the local industry in line with international competition.

"The enhancement of our external competitiveness also requires that our industrial sector be restructured and modernised," said the prime minister. He added that there had been an inadequate response to penetrate external markets from local business as required under an inward-looking strategy of industrialisation.

"This task of industrial restructuring must be addressed with a sense of urgency and commitment if we are to effectively participate in the global arena.

"To do otherwise would result in the stultification, if not the demise of some segments of our productive sectors ravaged by competitive forces," he added.

Relations With South Africa To Be Established

MB2503091292 Johannesburg South African Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 0500 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Mexico has announced that it is to lift its five-year-old ban on trade with South Africa immediately and that it is to establish diplomatic relations with this country.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry said in a statement in Mexico City that diplomats from the two countries would hold a series of high-level talks in the next few weeks on the establishment of diplomatic relations. Travel restrictions on South Africans have also been lifted but a ban on military exports remains in place.

The department gave progress towards the dismantling of apartheid as the reason for the change in policy.

Presidential Staff Helicopter Involved in Crash

PA2603030692 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 0222 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Bulletin issued by the Presidency of the Republic on 25 March; place not given]

[Text] On the afternoon of 25 March at approximately 1450, the Super Puma helicopter, with registry number TPH-04, of the presidential staff was involved in an accident. The pilot's visibility was obstructed by fog, causing the helicopter to crash into a hill in Huautla de Jimenez, Oaxaca State. Those on board were conducting reconnaissance duties prior to the presidential visit to that state in the next few days.

The following people died in the accident: General Pedro Bautista Perez, staff deputy chief of operations; Captain Guillermo Playan Cuellar, chief of the 3d Section; Lieutenant Colonel Rafael Rodriguez Hernandez, deputy chief of the 4th Section; Major Antonio Minor Salazar, deputy chief of the 3d Section; Clemente Licon, coordinator of presidential tours; Mario Alvarez Lucas, private secretary of the governor of Oaxaca State; Luis Rodriguez, of the Presidency Media Directorate General; and the crew made up of Capt. Rendon Garcia Corona, Lt. Antonio Garcia, and Sergeant Leon Castaneda.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, profoundly dismayed upon learning about the accident, immediately issued orders for the retrieval of the bodies from the accident site and their transfer to Mexico City. He also ordered that all the needs of their relatives be met and offered them all his support. Salinas also voiced his deepest sympathy to them. The tour to Oaxaca was suspended until further notice.

TV Link Between Latin America, Spain To Begin

PA2903041292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2114 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Mar (NOTIMEX)—A television project called "The Americas Network," which will link Latin America with Spain through programs transmitted via satellite, will begin on 20 April and end on 12 October.

The project will last 176 days with 704 hours of transmission. It will include programs on the culture, history, tourism, family, communication, and education of each country, among other topics.

The network via satellite to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the encounter of two worlds will transmit four hours per day, Monday through Friday, and will present a selection of programs produced in each of the participating countries.

Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela have confirmed that they will participate, while confirmation is still pending from Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, and Brazil.

Among the artists who will represent Mexico are actress and singer Veronica Castro, singers Daniela Romo and Mijares, and Gabriela Rivero in a soap opera called "Carousel of the Americas."

El Salvador

Cristiani Swears In 4 Members of Police Council

PA2803135492 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Mar 92 p9

[Text] On 26 March President Alfredo Cristiani swore in four of the eight members of the National Public Security Academy Council. Dr. Enrique Argumedo, Guillermo Avila Quehl, Oscar Castro Araujo, and Matias Romero took the oath in the Presidential Palace's Honor Hall.

The other Council members are: Ernesto Lopez Zepeda, Macla Judith de Torres, Dr. Alfredo Martinez Moreno, and Victor Manuel Valle. They will be sworn in on 30 March.

The National Information Secretariat stated that, according to the Chapultepec Agreements, the Council should include two civilians with distinguished civic, cultural, legal, technical, police, or academic careers, for the purpose of ensuring pluralism within the Council.

After administering the oath of office, President Cristiani urged them to work in their fields with utmost efficiency to comply with the agreements.

One of the Council's activities will be to establish the admission procedure to the academy for new national civilian police.

FMLN Criticizes Attempt To Expel Mattarollo

PA2903002392 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Mar 92

["Press Bulletin" issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, in San Salvador on 27 March]

[Text] In view of the government's intention to expel from the country Dr. Rodolfo Mattarollo, human rights specialist of the UN Observers for El Salvador, ONUSAL, the FMLN states the following to the people of the nation:

1. To fulfill the negotiated agreements, the government and the FMLN received a commitment from the United Nations for the installation of ONUSAL, to which both sides would provide all facilities necessary to carry out its mission of verification.

2. The agreement states that the director of the ONUSAL mission, appointed by the UN secretary general, would have the support of special advisers, who would be under his responsibility and not under the jurisdiction of the government, which is only one of the signatories of the agreement and a petitioner of the mission.

3. The unfortunate decision by the Foreign Ministry to expel Dr. Mattarollo from the country and the obstacles to satisfactorily resolve his and his family's immigration status, not only obstruct and weaken the humanitarian and verification mission being accomplished by ONUSAL, but they also reflect a willingness to promote an effort to obstruct fulfillment of the agreements that were signed during the negotiating process, especially in the area of human rights.

4. The foreign minister has not yet given a clear and satisfactory explanation of his views in this case. One of the commitments the government reached in the negotiations was to respect and facilitate the work of ONUSAL. Instead, the case is showing the government's intention to influence ONUSAL and there is insufficient political commitment to support all other necessary mechanisms for the complete implementation and verification of the agreements.

5. The FMLN has expressed its concerns to ONUSAL, to the UN secretary general, as well as to Mr. Marrack Goulding, joint secretary of UN peacekeeping operations, with regard to this case. Today it reiterates its complete support for the ONUSAL mission and demands that the government suspend its undue and illegal unilateral actions. The FMLN demands that the government fulfill the peace agreements without conditions or distortions because they are the basis for the political stability and democratic transformation of El Salvador.

[Signed] FMLN, San Salvador, 27 March 1992

Leak Discloses Government-ONUSAL 'Conflict'

PA2703174592 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] Deputy Jorge Carranza on 26 March admitted on the "Good Morning" program that the disclosure of a conflict between the Salvadoran Government and ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] over Dr. Rodolfo Mattarollo may have resulted from a leak of information from the Foreign Ministry. According to Carranza, some of his colleagues may have made mistakes, but not with the party's endorsement.

This situation, he says, has led to the ONUSAL member being told that he could not remain in the country. Carranza admitted, however, that the government was not aware of the letter read by the ARENA deputies, and added that if a mistake was made it was not with ARENA's endorsement.

[Begin recording] Could there have been a leak?

[Carranza] There may have been a leak. However, I want to say that as a faction, as a political party, we did not give rise to this problem. If a note arrived at that time, it had to have been infiltrated, but without the knowledge of either the Foreign Ministry or ARENA. [end recording]

Defending the position maintained by Foreign Minister Pacas Castro at the National Assembly, Carranza gave

assurances that Pacas pledged to investigate the origins of the note, which presumably gave Dr. Mattarollo 24 hours to leave the country.

[Begin recording] [Carranza] The foreign minister was very, very specific. He said that an investigation is already underway and that within his jurisdiction the full weight of discipline will be brought to bear. I do not truly know how, on an internal level, the Foreign Ministry will deal with the question of whether the government released the information or whether it was leaked. [end recording]

Dr. Mattarollo's presence in the country, which was rejected by the government, is now being discussed at the highest diplomatic level, because ONUSAL has issued a communique supporting Dr. Mattarollo's professional capabilities. The conflict has also led to an official agreement whereby the United Nations observers must be formally accredited if after eight months in the country their diplomatic credentials are not delivered.

FMLN Reportedly Threatens Government Officials

PA2803015092 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Mar 92 p 19

[Text] Members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] have made death threats to block the access of government officials to 21 properties belonging to the Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation (ISTA), a high-level government committee has reported.

This committee, which was established by the government to study the problem of occupied land, added that ISTA properties invaded by FMLN members involve 8,900 manzanas of prime land located south of Usulutan and San Vicente Departments.

The source states that groups manipulated by the FMLN have occupied forest reserves of the Agriculture Ministry, although the peace agreement signed in January excludes state forest reserves as possible relocation sites.

The committee, which is formed by representatives of various associations, described land occupations as "flagrant violations of constitutional rights and an attack on the atmosphere of legality and justice that must prevail in the country."

Raul Garcia Prieto, president of National Financial Institution for Agricultural Lands, pointed out that front organizations have threatened judges and property owners who have tried to inspect the land.

Garcia added that leftist groups such as PADECOMS and CODELUM [expansions unknown] are demanding money from small plot owners to allow them to work.

FMLN Official on Financing Reconstruction

PA2703192392 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Report by Mauricio Ramirez]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's [FMLN] Committee for Reconstruction and Development said on 27 March that the more than $800 million for the reconstruction plan were obtained as the result of joint work between the FMLN and the government.

According to the FMLN representatives who flew to Washington with the governmental delegation, the negotiations were successful, because more was obtained than had been anticipated. Mauricio Chavez, member of the guerrillas' committee, said the FMLN is satisfied with its participation in the governmental negotiations to finance the national reconstruction. Chavez admitted there are still problems in the peace process, but said they will continue to work on the matter. The guerrilla leader pointed out the most pressing problems.

[Begin Chavez recording] One of these problems is the lack of participation by nongovernmental organizations and social organizations in general in the plan's discussion and implementation mechanisms. Next, the government has not satisfactorily incorporated the economic and social development programs prepared by a (?commission). We also regard as a problem the lack of compliance with the programs to reincorporate the FMLN into civilian life. [end recording]

Chavez said if this situation is not solved as soon as practicable, the execution of the agreements will be seriously delayed. He added that the first international aid funds will be used in the fields agreed upon in the peace agreements.

[Begin Chavez recording] In particular, we mean the necessary money for the creation of a civilian police as well as the Peace Commission, the Truth Commission, the ombudsman's office, and other key institutions in the process. [end recording]

Chavez said there will be various mechanisms for distributing the aid. He regretted the U.S. Government's refusal to issue a visa to Joaquin Villalobos. Finally, the FMLN's reconstruction committee called on the people in general to participate in the implementation of the national reconstruction plan. The FMLN commission said the World Bank will hold a new meeting in six months to hear about the handling of the first disbursements.

Planning Minister on Financial Aid Package

PA2703161292 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0301 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Report by Fausto Valladares from Comalapa]

[Text] The Salvadoran delegation that flew to Washington to negotiate with the consultative group the necessary aid for the reconstruction of El Salvador returned this afternoon. At Comalapa Airport, Planning Minister Mirna Lievano de Marquez expressed satisfaction with the aid obtained.

Minister Lievano reported on the results of the meetings with the advisory group in Washington.

[Begin Lievano recording] The fact that during the meetings we were offered $800 million in aid over the next two years makes us feel very optimistic about the international community's support for this effort [words indistinct] the advisory group has made a firm commitment for the support from several countries. [end recording]

The terms under which the international community and the World Bank granted this aid are consistent with the country's economic situation. More than 60 percent of this aid takes the form of donations, Minister Lievano said.

[Begin Lievano recording] In addition, we requested flexibility in the transaction so the disbursements can be made expeditiously. I would say approximately 85 percent of the resources obtained are donations. In other words, only 15 percent of the amount negotiated will be loaned to the country. [end recording]

She added that approximately $25 million will be used in meeting the peasants' need for arable lands. Nineteen groups and two financial organizations expressed support for the reconstruction of El Salvador. As a result, the government has been promised $800 million, which will be invested in the next two years in creating jobs, preserving the environment, and reinforcing the democratic institutions created after the peace agreements were signed.

Commentary Discusses Reconstruction Aid

PA2903034692 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Station commentary: "The Government's Economic Plan, Reconstruction, and National Needs"]

[Text] Financial organizations and international banks have approved $800 million for El Salvador's reconstruction programs. This amounts to a high percentage of the total this country needs to recover. However, most important about this is that this economic boost was only made possible because of the creditors' trust in the peace agreements. Even more determinant was the stimulus created by the participation of the various representative forces of the Salvadoran opposition, especially the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, in the efforts to secure those funds.

The fact that the opposition forces reached an agreement with the government to establish a commission that traveled to Washington means that the latter is committed to complying with the reconstruction projects with no other goal than to meet the great national needs.

The representativeness of that commission that negotiated and secured the $800 million must be preserved. First, because it already demonstrated that it is an interlocutor capable of securing new funds, and second, to have it co-manage and monitor the implementation of projects to ensure that the government will not later claim to be the owner of those funds and achievements that do not belong to it, and use the reconstruction works as the basis of its party's political campaign, as has been the case with all foreign aid received by this country.

This suggests a need for and forces us to make adjustments and establish limits to the unpopular and neoliberal economic plan that President Cristiani has applied since assuming power in June 1989. The truth is that maintaining a consensus in further efforts to obtain financing would bring us to the takeoff phase of our national project that would seek to meet the needs of all social and productive sectors and not just respond to interests of the economically powerful minorities.

If the Salvadoran nation is capable of participating in the reorientation of economic development policies, it is also capable of redefining a new model that would respond to national interests first, without drifting away from regional integration projects, such as the Central American and continental common markets and the Initiative for the Americas.

Peasants Attacked by Unidentified Armed Men

PA2803042192 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Unidentified individuals attacked three civilians within the jurisdiction of Mariona, apparently killing two of them. The survivor, who was shot four times, reported the incident on 27 March.

A man, 25, identified as Neftali N. was the only survivor of a presumed massacre of peasants in the vicinity of the Mariona Jail. Neftali sustained four bullet wounds and had to receive emergency attention. He said that a group of heavily armed men intercepted him and two other friends when they were about to begin their farming activities. He added they were taken to a rocky hill, where they were shot. Fortunately, Neftali survived.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What happened to you?

[Neftali] They took off our clothes and they fired at us with shotguns. There were eight of them.

[Reporter] How were they dressed?

[Neftali] First they said they were guerrillas, and then they were members of death squads. They were dressed in civilian clothes, and were traveling in an old white truck. My friends were shot in the head. I managed to

flee and they continued shooting at me. I did not stop, because I thought of my children.

[Reporter] Where are the others, did you know the others?
[Neftali] The ones who were killed?
[Reporter] Yes.
[Neftali] Yes, they were my friends.
[Reporter] Their names?
[Neftali] One of them is Julio Cesar.
[Reporter] Could you identify the killers?
[Neftali] Yes sir.
[Reporter] Do you remember how they were dressed?
[Neftali] [Answer indistinct] [end recording]

The other two men, whose bodies have not been found yet, have been identified as Miguel Angel Tobias and Julio Cesar Prefax. Their anguished relatives confirmed that they have indeed disappeared and said that no one has helped them find the bodies.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified woman] We heard reports that there were people causing trouble in that area, and that they threatened to kill anyone who went near the area of Mariona or Santa Rosa. We heard those rumors, and we asked our brothers to be careful. [end recording]

The Red Cross transported the survivor to a hospital.

Apparently, armed groups continue creating unrest among the civilian population with these kind of attacks, which must be investigated by the authorities.

Guatemala

Minister Announces Inquiry on University Attack

PA2803015192 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The government has condemned the terrorist attack carried out in the evening of 26 March against a San Carlos University building. The Government Ministry has begun an investigation to clarify the explosion at the Chemical Sciences and Pharmacy Faculty, located on the university campus in Zone 12. No casualties were reported in the attack. Government spokesman Gonzalo Asturias Montenegro said a country is not built but destroyed with these terrorist attacks. Government Minister Fernando Hurtado Prem commented on the attack.

[Begin recording] [Hurtado] We will certainly heed the request by university authorities and students and do our best to investigate this incident. We do not want a repeat of incidents that took place in the past against the university community. We must try to protect university autonomy, as well as what the university and students represent. We will stop at nothing to prevent a return to the past. This means we will do our best to prevent the university or universities from again becoming the target of people who try to destabilize the country and cause problems for the university and the government.

[Reporter] A student leader said a task force unit entered the campus and warned that this may be an act of repression.

[Hurtado] There are some things we must keep in mind about this matter. If we want to conduct an investigation, we must logically be present everywhere. The presence of the police or an Army task force in the university is not meant to repress or coerce anybody or anything of the sort. If we do need to conduct an investigation at the site of the incident, the police will have to interfere but in a different manner. The presence of the authorities ought not be construed as a sign of intimidation or repression. With this action, we are seeking a rapprochement between the authorities and the people so that people can realize we are not intimidating anyone or trying to repress anybody. We are, instead, seeking ways to cooperate with the citizens and the people affected in specific cases.

I would like to appeal to the people to provide the information, cooperation, and support the security corps investigators need to be able to clarify the incident. Otherwise, we will have more difficulties.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] an investigation carried out?

[Hurtado] We have conducted some work and have made some progress, but we still have nothing specific. The fact there was a similar incident earlier gives us additional leads. We will coordinate this matter with all the security corps to clarify the attack. We do not under any circumstances want anybody thinking or believing the government has again begun to implement this sort of policy. We flatly rule out or reject this idea. As you know, these investigations are difficult, but if the people cooperate with us and give us information, and if the people trust us, they will be helping us resolve this case sooner. Things would be easier for us. [end recording]

Defense Minister Denies Existence of Group

PA2903024392 Paris AFP in Spanish 1647 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Mar (AFP)—Guatemalan Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia today denied the existence within the Armed Forces of the so-called officers of the mountain, who are opposed to the peace negotiations with the leftist guerrillas.

The officers of the mountain, who operate illegally, emerged in 1988 during Former President Vinicio Cerezo's Christian Democratic administration.

On 23 March, on the 10th anniversary of the coup d'etat against General Romero Lucas, the officers of the mountain indicated that the climate of violence and corruption that currently prevails [in Guatemala] is similar to that which prompted the 1982 coup.

Gen. Garcia brushed aside that group's communique that questions peace negotiations between President

Jorge Serrano's government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity.

According to Gen. Garcia, the group "does not exist, and if it did, it would consist of officers who are way behind the times, as they are not up to date on the democratic changes that have taken place over the past 10 years."

Recently the officers of the mountain also rejected a proposal to create a commission to investigate human rights violations.

With regard to the dialogue with the guerrillas, Presidency Secretary Manuel Conde reported on 27 March that he will meet next week with Guatemala's Archbishop Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada to set the date for the next meeting.

Former Guerrilla Establishes Prodemocracy Group

PA2803150892 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] The emergence of a group called the Autonomous Movement of Masses for the Establishment of Democracy [Movimiento Autonomo de Masas para la Constitucion de la Democracia—MAM] was announced 26 March by its promoters, who include Danilo Rodriguez, a former guerrilla who accepted amnesty recently.

In making the announcement, Rodriguez was accompanied by Cesar Arrecis, Carlos Lopez, Byron Dardon, and Jorge Castillo, who explained this organization was created to meet the country's current need to broaden and deepen the political opportunities.

They said the emergence of this movement has brought about diverse speculation with regard to its ideological position but they pointed out it is not a political party.

They stated that its main goal is to help achieve democracy and added that it is made up of representatives of diverse sectors such as small business, popular and union leaders, and others.

They said they have no plans to defend any ideology and added that attorney Rodriguez' participation should not prompt people to attribute a political orientation to the movement.

They pointed out that the movement's struggle to institutionalize democracy is divided in three phases. The first seeks to broaden and deepen democratic opportunities. It will last until the final agreements are signed between the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), the government, and the Army.

The second phase, they said, which could last several decades, seeks to consolidate liberal political democracy. It will start on the signing of the agreements. The third phase will seek to start and develop a popular participative democracy. It will also take a long time to develop.

The proposal contains two points. The first states: "Given that high-ranking soldiers have said certain departments are no longer sites of clashes between the guerrillas and the Army, the civilian self-defense patrols [PAC's] stationed there should be demobilized. We propose this partial demobilization of PAC's be implemented immediately."

The other point states: "Because of the negative effects on the people caused by acts to destroy the country's infrastructure, we propose that the URNG commit itself to the Guatemalan people to stop sabotage in exchange for the partial demobilization of the PAC's."

Nicaragua

Godoy States Position on Fiscal Measures

PA2803142292 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Mar 92 p 4

["Position paper" issued by the Office of the Vice President's Press and Public Relations Department in Managua on 11 March]

[Text] Vice President Virgilio Godoy Reyes believes that, although fiscal measures are positive, the effects are "cosmetic" because they do not tend to reduce the high cost of living suffered by the Nicaraguan people.

The measures are good because the 5-percent reduction in the General Sales Tax, IGV, cuts the cost of articles and services purchased in the commercial sector.

Vice President Godoy feels the reduction in fuel prices, the highest in the area even after the reduction, is necessary. He also views as positive the Capital Tax reduction and its replacement by the previous property tax, equivalent to 1 percent of total value.

All those measures are good and acceptable. But to say they will solve the country's economic problems is an overstatement. Obviously, people will be able to buy a little more. But the business sector has not reacted by reducing prices, except the IGV, in accordance with the reduction established by the government.

Vice President Godoy notes there has been no reduction in public transportation fares on taxis, buses, or microbuses. Nor is there any sign of a reduction in cargo transportation prices, which considerably affect the prices of products and services and, consequently, the cost of living.

The ones who are benefiting are the owners of public and private transportation means, not the general public.

Vice President Godoy believes the government "did not do enough" because what is important is to reduce taxes that contribute to the high cost of national production and thus to the high cost of living.

Although Nicaragua is the most expensive country in Central America, it has the lowest salaries in the area. This disparity creates a huge difference between salaries and prices. It is necessary to reduce the duties on

imported products to have a direct effect on the price of products and services consumed in the country.

High Costs

Producing a quintal of rice in Nicaragua is more costly than in any other part of Central America. It is the same with corn, sugar, coffee, beans, etc.

Vice President Godoy recommends reducing taxes on fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural tools, and machinery. In sum, he proposes reducing taxes on everything related to the production of essential goods for the population.

That recommendation would have two important effects: First, it would reduce production costs, which in turn would reduce retail prices. Second, it would create a climate of competitiveness with other countries in the area on essential articles.

Before implementing the fiscal measures, the government signed an agreement for the free circulation of merchandise in Central America, which includes 1,600 products. This has already caused problems: Approximately 400 handicraft shops are closing their doors in Masaya, exacerbating unemployment in Nicaragua. For example, shoe factories are closing for a very simple and obvious reason: Shoes made in Taiwan are cheaper than those made in Masaya. Naturally, without considering quality, most buyers will go by the price.

With the free circulation of those 1,600 products, the situation of local producers will be even more complex, particularly affecting the economy in the area of human resources. In that regard, a reduction in the price of passports will be of little help (no one competes with a passport). A slight reduction in the price of fuel will not be of much help when a bottleneck has been placed on production.

Nicaragua produces very little, at very high costs, and the quality of the products is questionable.

Vice President Godoy ends with the following conclusions: The measures adopted recently are good but incomplete. They will not have a specific impact on the basic family basket, which includes transportation, rent, electricity, and water.

The measures have no real effect on the high cost of living. They are in no way an ideal remedy to solve the economic, political, and social crisis the Nicaraguan people are confronting.

[Issued] Managua, 11 March 1992.
Press and Public Relations Department, Office of the Vice President

Army Clash With Demonstrators Causes Injuries

PA2803043592 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0241 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Army clashed with demonstrators, who had set up barricades and occupied power installations in the northern part of the country on 26 March. The clash left two people injured, official sources reported on 27 March.

Even though the authorities did not say who the demonstrators were, reports released in the northern part of the country said they were former Sandinist soldiers protesting the lack of compliance with agreements signed with the government for their return to civilian life.

The Sandinist People's Army said they are a group of "hotheads," who took positions in a road in Matagalpa Department, 110 km north of Managua, and shot at soldiers sent to the region to restore order, who in turn fired back as a "deterrent."

In addition to the two injured people, the intervention of the Army and the police in a power plant occupied by demonstrators led to 41 arrests and the confiscation of 16 rifles, shotguns, grenades, machetes, and even a homemade mortar.

Following the 1990 disarmament of the "contras," who waged a war against the Sandinists during the 1980's, the Nicaraguan Army was reduced by the government of Violeta Chamorro. Both former contras and former soldiers obtained promises of compensation and land, which they claim they have not received.

The shootout on 26 March took place on the road between "El Empalme de Telica" and "San Isidro," where the soldiers were sent to support the police in the restoration of public order.

Military forces were also deployed to other areas of Matagalpa, where armed groups blocked a 7-km stretch of the Pan-American Highway, an international highway that links Nicaragua with Honduras and Costa Rica.

The "hotheads," as the Army calls them, in addition to blocking traffic, also set up barricades and stopped international freight trucks and private and government vehicles. In some cases they even ripped the tires of some of the vehicles.

Other demonstrators, some of them armed, occupied a government-owned power plant in Sebado, 100 km north of Managua, and cut off electricity to the northern region of Nicaragua and held the plant's employees hostage; but they were finally subdued by the Army and the police.

A soldier, who was attacked with a machete, was injured in the incident, while one of the "hotheads" was slightly wounded in his foot.

Army and police forces also evicted about 100 people occupying the warehouses of the Nicaraguan Enterprise for Staple Foods in Sebaco.

Police Force Cane Workers To Leave Refinery

PA2303175592 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2249 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Sugar cane workers belonging to the Confederation for Trade Union Unity [CUS] patriotically forced Sandinist sugar cane workers from the Benjamin Zeledon sugar refinery in Rivas and started to work normally to raise the refinery's production. The Sandinists took over the refinery again on 24 March, forcing out the CUS workers, who were active in harvesting the sugarcane crop. On 27 March, the Government Ministry's national police forcibly removed the Sandinists and turned over the installation to the CUS workers, who returned to their normal cane cutting. Here is Jose Espinosa Navarro:

[Begin recording] [Espinosa] The trade union of Sandinist sugar cane workers had declared a strike. Our companeros showed up for work at 0800 on 25 March, disregarding the urgings of the Orlando Sanchez Espinosa trade union not to work. The companeros started working. Some 60 men arrived at 0205 on 25 March. About 30 of them, armed with axes and Makarov pistols, attacked and fired on some of our companeros, forcing them from the refinery. Our companeros chose to leave to preclude a tragedy because the Sandinists were firing indiscriminately. Police recovered the facilities and our companeros are working again.

The situation came about because the director of the Ernesto Vargas Center supports the Sandinist trade union as an accomplice, disregarding the active status and the majority of our own trade union. We are working and want to exercise this right. We demand that the authorities, particularly Government Minister Carlos Hurtado, with whom we met on 27 March, provide the necessary protection so our companeros can work normally.

We want nothing more than to work. This does not mean that we are relinquishing our legal demands in relation to our own activities, such as the defense of workers' rights and freedom. Approximately 25 percent of the workers signed an agreement with the government and employers. We have addressed a letter to engineer (?Isaac Caldera) on this situation. Other officials have looked the other way and lent themselves to certain manipulations. We have learned of a document in which [words indistinct] has had little participation.

[Unidentified Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Espinosa] We are truly pleased that the international community has looked in Nicaragua's direction. We think the Nicaraguan people, who have suffered so much and made so many efforts, deserve someone else being concerned with and expressing solidarity with what we are passing through, which is nothing less than unemployment, hunger, abuse, and even corruption. We think it is time for this Canadian aid to be given to the dispossessed. It is usual in Latin America and Nicaragua for all economic packages and aid destined for this region to pass through a sieve, so to speak, with the result that those really in need, the poor people, never get this aid. Consequently, unemployment and hunger in Nicaragua should not be any wonder. We believe the valuable and generous aid friendly countries are offering us can be well received here without us losing our own identity and sovereignty as a country and a people. [end recording]

Ortega Denies Agreement With Government

PA2703151392 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Mar 92 pp 1, 12

[By Maria Alicia Talavera]

[Text] There is no agreement between the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the government, but "an exchange of points of view" on such aspects as ownership and unemployment, because they concur on the need to democratize the economy, FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega has said.

Shortly before flying to Washington, where he will attend the meeting of the Advisory Group of the Donor Countries, Ortega said that the Sandinist Assembly—a partisan forum for deliberations—will be tasked with discussing the FSLN proposals with regard to government viewpoints on the country's situation.

Following the 14 March meeting between the National Directorate and the economic cabinet, the decision was made to continue talks with the government. "We will hold discussions with Sandinist and non-Sandinist sectors" before reaching a decision, Ortega indicated.

The FSLN leader acknowledged that there is concurrence on the need to "take emergency action to face the most serious problems of the country," and called for an honest dialogue among all sectors.

Referring to remarks by FSLN National Directorate members and leaders of the National Workers Front [FNT], he said that there have been "some bad interpretations intended to create confrontation between the FSLN and the FNT."

Ortega insisted that the FSLN "backs the struggle of the workers." In addition, the personal proposals by a members of the party's Center and other Sandinist leaders agree with the FNT's views, and "we are talking about seeking a solution to problems."

The former president denied the meeting held with the FNT yesterday was meant to "reprimand them." "We are not their fathers. They have an independent stance and are entitled to express their views," and so is the National Directorate, he indicated.

The meeting was in fact "to express the support of the National Directorate," with regard to discussions on privatization contained in the Concerted Agreements.

He dismissed concerns that the strike by sugar cane cutters may adversely affect the meeting scheduled for today in Washington. I am confident that the problem is close to resolution and the fact that developments are moving in the right direction has a positive impact, he said.

His participation in the Advisory Group (or Community of Donors) stems from the fact the FSLN constitutes a factor of stability. Ortega compared that attitude to the one adopted in 1989 by groups opposed to the FSLN, when they did not support efforts to obtain foreign resources in Stockholm.

We would be unwise if we did not attend at this critical time because the funds we are trying to obtain benefit all the people, he said. During his Washington visit, Ortega will meet with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and friends of Nicaragua, but no U.S. officials. Instead, he explained, he will further his contacts with donor countries to seek support for Nicaragua and keep progress in economic terms from entailing greater social costs.

With regard to the insistence of Assembly President Alfredo Cesar to publish Law 133 on ownership, he said, "it is a destabilizing attitude that harms the entire country. The only option is to reject it."

National Solidarity With Cuba Committee Created

PA2703161392 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] The boards of the Nicaraguan Solidarity With Cuba Committees have established a "National Solidarity Committee" with Cuba. During the committee's first meeting, the members demanded international respect for Cuba's self-determination, sovereignty, and independence and for "the right of our Cuban brothers to establish the social system they deem suitable."

The following people comprise this committee: Father Miguel d'Escoto; Father Ernesto Cardenal; Rita Fletes [not further identified]; Deputy Maria Ramirez; Daniel Nunez of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen; Edgardo Garcia of the Farm Workers Association; Clemente Guido [organization secretary of the Democratic Conservative Party]; Octavio Martinez Ordonez [dean of the National Autonomous University in Leon]; and Reverend Miguel Angel Casco.

The movement demanded that the Nicaraguan Government urge "the immediate lifting of the international blockade against Cuba, which has been imposed and maintained by several U.S. administrations."

It also called for the return of the "usurped Guantanamo" territory and demanded that all hostile and aggressive actions against the Cuban people cease because they constitute a flagrant violation of international law.

The committee asserted that U.S. actions to pressure third countries to prevent them from selling medicine or food to Cuba "is also a serious violation of the most basic human rights."

The committee members decided that the movement's main tasks would be to support the "a drop of petroleum for Cuba" campaign and actively to disclose the Cuban people's situation.

Rights Commission Letter to President Chamorro

PA2803144792 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 27 Mar 92

["Text" of a letter from the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights, CPDH, to President Violeta Chamorro, issued in Managua on 26 March]

[Text] Excellency,

President Violeta Chamorro
Presidential Palace, Managua.
Madam President;

The Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights [CPDH], in a letter dated 28 January 1992, requested the creation of an investigative commission to review the clandestine cemeteries or common graves that have been discovered across the country. Said letter stated that the investigative commission should include civilian and religious members who would give the commission credibility. The commission's duty would be to bring to justice those responsible for these crimes, considered to be against humanity itself.

To date, we have received no response to our petition. We have learned that the government has decided to create a commission to investigate common graves and missing persons in Nicaragua. Said commission would be made up of the attorney general, the deputy ministers of government and foreign relations, and the judge advocate or their representatives. This commission's job would be to collect information over a period of three months related to common graves and missing persons. They would then present a report to the president within a year. We understand this investigative commission is being formed in light of the upcoming visit to Nicaragua by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

The CPDH believes that such a government commission, made up of high level executive branch officials, would lack credibility and confidence in the eyes the people, particularly the relatives of the missing and victims of war crimes, and especially if the Armed Forces Judge Advocate is included. Said official has done nothing to investigate the various crimes that have been reported.

The three-month limit to collect information, and one year to process such information, are insufficient. Given the nature of the problem and the remote mountain locations of the homes of the majority of the victims'

relatives, these time periods would make it impossible to collect the correct information, as common graves would continue to appear after such periods have expired. This will not solve the problem. In addition, the main objective of an investigative commission is not to learn and then inform others of the circumstances surrounding the disappearances and common graves. Its primary objective is to investigate who committed these crimes and to report them so that they may be punished in accordance with local and international law.

The CPDH would like to remind you that the Nicaraguan Government is a signatory to UN Resolution 2391, by which the convention agrees on crimes against humanity. The government adopted such a resolution with Decree 189, as published in the 9 May 1986 issue of the GAZETTE. This agreement obliges the signatory governments to do all that is in their power to prevent these crimes from going unpunished and to abstain from promulgating laws that would protect those responsible for such acts, whose penal accountability cannot expire.

This commission hereby reaffirms its support for the government's reconciliation efforts but believes reconciliation should have its foundation within a legal framework and state of law, which would imply compliance with the laws of the land and with international agreements signed by the government.

Yours truly,
Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights.
Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, Oscar Herdocia Lacayo, (Carlos Fuentes Trejos), Cesar Vivas Rojas, Lino Hernandez Trigueros, Nicolas Bolanos Geyer, Julio Icaza, (Monsignor Osvaldo Castrejon), Dina Zamora de Correa, Norman Caldera Lacayo, Jose Castillo Osejo.

PDC Cites FSLN for 'Invitation To Riot'

PA2803154292 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2257 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Statement issued by the Christian Democratic Union, PDC, political committee; place, date not given; read by Armando Zambrana Fonseca, deputy of the National Opposition Union, UNO—recorded]

[Text] This statement concerns the grave responsibility the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] assumed when its secretary general and other party leaders called for social disorder.

It is evident that the economic crisis and the government adjustments have created monetary instability and brought about a fiscal deficit. It is also evident that the labor sector has been affected and that existing social tension has increased. Our party has always defended the workers' right to press their demands through legally established means. For this reason, we condemn the methods used to create so-called negotiable riots, a stand that confirms the FSLN's (?usual) behavior. This behavior continues to be expressed with evident disregard of the citizenry, who clamor for peace and order to reconstruct what was destroyed by Daniel Ortega's government and to (?repair) the damage he and his party inflicted on the country.

PDC holds the Sandinist radical wing responsible for this invitation to riot, a stand that has been undermining the country's democratic process. Ortega must understand that these actions by his party only inflict further damage on the homeland, thus eliciting the Nicaraguan peoples' rejection, even if he flies to Washington. PDC deplores the inconsistency of the central government which, instead of showing the determination it pledged on 6 January and enforcing the law against those who habitually violate it, has yielded to Sandinist pressure by inviting them to join the delegation that traveled to Washington. This fact is even more regrettable when we consider that the invitation was used to sell international banks a false image of the country.

These facts are the symptoms of a deeper evil. PDC admits we are experiencing a general crisis in the economic, social, political, cultural, and moral fields. We are willing to participate in a national effort to seek and maintain a more just and humane society. In view of the crisis we are experiencing, PDC demands common sense from the country's political and social leaders. Of course, under these circumstances, common sense is the new name of patriotism in Nicaragua.

Radio Onda de Luz To Inaugurate New Transmitter

PA2803151692 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] On the weekend of 28 March, Radio Onda de Luz will inaugurate a 20-kilowatt transmitter to mark its 33d anniversary, radio director Juan Rios has reported. The representative of the official organ of Nicaragua's evangelical community also announced changes in the station's educational programming. In addition to preaching the gospel, Radio Onda de Luz will provide information on the country's laws, health, and other important aspects of Nicaraguan society. Here is Juan Rios:

[Begin recording] [Rios] After 33 years of preaching the word of the Lord to the Nicaraguan people on the air, the lifespan of the transmitter with which we began our wonderful work has expired. This transmitter is approximately 40 to 45 years old. To mark our 33d anniversary, we have renovated our transmission equipment. We hope to have 40 kilowatts of power to achieve greater nationwide coverage. With this, we hope to reach the most remote areas of Nicaragua.

[Unidentified reporter] Will this project be completed all at once or [words indistinct]?

[Rios] It will be done gradually. We will [word indistinct] with 20 kilowatts. We have plans to expand our capacity to 40 kilowatts. We have devised plans, which include

working on the building, the antenna, and technical improvements, to produce 40 kilowatts of power.

In the next six or seven months, we also want to begin beaming our signal on the FM frequency with 200 kilowatts of power, as part of our expansion program. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] In this case [words indistinct]) be included in your programming?

[Rios] We wanted to [words indistinct] the profile of the radio. We will improve our technical quality [words indistinct] communication. We will present different features such as health and legal programs. We will provide legal orientation programs to the people. These are educational programs the people need very much.

[Reporter] Do you have plans for regular newscasts?

[Rios] Yes, we plan to broadcast a newscast from 0600 to 0700 [1100 to 1200 GMT]. We will not begin to air this newscast right away. We have completed a feasibility study on the possibility of airing this newscast.

We also want to invite the media to attend, from 1400 to 1700 on 29 March at kilometer 43.5 on the Northern Highway, the inauguration of the first phase of our project. We hope to enjoy the company of other media, which [words indistinct] Radio Onda de Luz. [end recording]

Panama

Endara: 'Reaction Group' To Fight Crime

PA2703155892 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Mar 92 p a2

[Report by Carmen Elida Contreras]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara, in his weekly news conference on 26 March, announced the creation of a reaction group that would respond to critical situations as an option in the country's struggle against crime. Endara described the Christian Democrats as people who are "up in a cloud."

Endara said that the special antiterror group will be drawn from the ranks of the Judicial Technical Police, the National Police, the Institutional Protection Service, and the Attorney General's Office. All members must have begun service after 1 January 1990.

The reaction group for critical situations will be under the direct orders of the president and will be trained by members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

In an unrelated topic, the president mentioned the possibility that the presidents of Nicaragua and El Salvador, Violet Chamorro and Alfredo Cristiani, respectively, may visit Panama in the next few days.

"The Panamanian democracy has enemies, but I see the country well above the events that have taken place over the past few days. [no end quotation marks as published]

Endara on Private Sector Security Demands

PA2603192992 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 26 Mar 92 p 2

[Report by Jose Gonzalez Batista]

[Text] Panamanian President Guillermo Endara Galimany labeled private sector businessmen "hysterical old women" after they threatened on 25 March not to pay taxes to the national treasury if the government does not guarantee the physical safety and welfare of all Panamanians.

More than 16 private enterprise organizations agreed unanimously not to pay any more taxes to the national treasury unless a climate of security is provided at all levels, thus contributing to foreign investment in the country.

"I think Panamanian businessmen are totally unaware of the crime problem in Panama," Endara said. He said private businessmen know very well it is impossible to curb crime, which occurs daily all over the world.

Endara said there are robberies and attacks all over the world "but to say there is a total lack of security in Panama is to know absolutely nothing about the problem."

"I think the private enterprise sector is going to extremes by threatening not to pay taxes. By saying they must defend themselves from the thieves that are in and outside of government, they show they have a totally erroneous concept of the situation. By making such statements they appear to be hysterical old women," he stated.

Business sectors reiterated on 24 March their concern that in the past 24 months there has been an upsurge in attacks, assaults, kidnappings, and crimes at different levels of private banking.

The businessmen said, in light of the fact that the private sector is the principal source of state revenue, they will ask for an immediate allocation of resources necessary for public entities (Judicial Technical Police, National Police) to guarantee the country's security.

The businessmen appointed a high-level commission composed of representatives of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Association of Colon Free Zone Users, the Hotel Managers Association, the Panamanian Tourism Association, and the Taxi Drivers Association. The commission will be charged with drafting a list of demands, which will be submitted soon to President Guillermo Endara.

Authorities Confirm Death of Japanese Businessman

PA2703144992 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Mar 92 pp 1, 38

[Report by Justino Gonzalez Jr.]

[Text] Panamanian authorities reported on 26 March that Japanese businessman Takashi Ota was killed by his captors one day after he was abducted by unidentified persons at a local restaurant.

Ota, 46, an executive of the Citizen Company in Latin America, disappeared on 14 March and died at the hands of his kidnappers a day later, despite approximately $700,000 in ransom being paid for his release.

The Japanese businessman's body was found on 20 March, five days after it had been abandoned along the road to El Llano Corregimiento near El Tigron, in Chepo District.

Pathologist Urbano Martinez, who participated in the autopsy, said that Ota died of strangulation. He was identified by his fingerprints, copies of which were brought from Japan.

At the time of discovery, the body was unrecognizable, because it had been left abandoned in the jungle area from 15-20 March.

Martinez explained that the body was brought to the Chepo Hospital morgue on 20 March and listed as unidentified. Not until two days ago were suspicions raised that it might be Ota's body.

The coroner said that the fingerprints, the hair color, and identification of the body by people who had known Ota during his stay in Panama make it possible to confirm that the body is that of the kidnapped businessman.

President Guillermo Endara Galimany has expressed regret over Ota's murder and said he hopes that the incident will not have an adverse effect on relations with Japan, which Endara said, "have a background of friendship."

Similarly, Endara announced the establishment of a "reaction group" to consist of units from the National Police, Technical Judicial Police, and Institutional Protection Service, to respond to terrorist and subversive activities.

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz confirmed Ota's murder on 26 March and said that investigations continue to identify those responsible.

Cruz said that one theory being explored in the investigation is that Colombian guerrilla groups have extended their kidnapping activities to businessmen in Panama to obtain funds for their subversive activities.

The attorney general did not rule out the possibility that Ota had been kidnapped by a "Japanese mafia" or a Panamanian paramilitary group to obtain funds for political purposes.

"We have not ruled out any of the theories that you have broached," Cruz said during a news conference in his office.

In a clear allusion to the secrecy that had been maintained by Japanese diplomats in Panama City, Cruz indicated that had the Panamanian authorities been informed of the Japanese businessman's kidnapping on the same day that it occurred, they might have had more clues as to those responsible and the motives.

Embassy Protests Murder

PA2903!o0192 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Mar 92 p 1A

[Report by Nubia Aparicio S.]

[Text] Osamu Igami, minister counselor at the Japanese Embassy, has asked Panamanian authorities to "strongly, urgently, and permanently adopt" all the necessary measures to prevent a repeat of crimes like the kidnapping of Japanese businessman Takashi Ota.

Ota, 45 years old and a representative of the Citizen Corporation in Latin America, was kidnapped on 14 March and assassinated on 15 March by his kidnappers.

In a communique issued here on 28 March, Igami stated on the embassy's behalf his "strongest indignation" toward the perpetrators of the assassination. He thanked the Panamanian authorities for the efforts they exerted. He also asked them to continue searching to locate the criminals.

The embassy stated its deepest condolences to Ota's relatives and colleagues, "who prayed incessantly for his life since his disappearance."

The Japanese Embassy confirmed on 28 March the arrival in Panama of the assassinated businessman's family.

"I ask you, from a humane viewpoint, to instruct your reporters not to interfere with the arrival of Mr. Ota's relatives (wife and two children), who will arrive this evening, and to respect their privacy," according to a communique from the embassy to media directors.

The Citizen Corporation executive's body remained in the Chepo morgue for six days. The identification of his body was corroborated at a hospital in this capital by forensic Dr. Humberto Mas.

Kidnapper's Call Investigated

PA2803030992 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 27 Mar 92 p 61

[Text] Panamanian Attorney General Rogelio Cruz is investigating a telephone call allegedly made by the kidnappers of Japanese businessman Takashi Ota. The kidnappers had reportedly offered to exchange Takashi Ota for a former soldier, Cancio Tason; they had called Citizen International and EL SIGLO's editorial desk. Therefore, EL SIGLO Deputy Director Aneldo Arosemena made sworn statements before the attorney general on 26 March.

EL SIGLO Deputy Director Aneldo Arosemena went to Attorney General Rogelio Cruz' office in the afternoon of 26 March to make sworn statements regarding a telephone conversation held on 25 March with a person who identified himself as a member of the group that kidnapped Citizen International executive Takashi Ota.

Arosemena told the attorney general that on 25 March at 1400 he received a call from a person who identified himself as a member of the group that kidnapped the Japanese businessman. This person said he had spoken to Citizen executives and assured them Ota was alive. He said he told them he wanted to have the former officer, Cancio Tason, who is under arrest at Renacer jail, exchanged for the Japanese businessman. The unidentified man demanded that the alleged exchange be carried out in Colombia. Tason was to be taken there. The caller also demanded that EL SIGLO publish a report saying that "they" say that "[Leslie] Loaiza is a man who is not true to his word."

When Arosemena asked the unidentified caller if the authors of the kidnapping were former soldiers, guerrillas, or drug traffickers, the caller hinted they were former soldiers who had contacts in Colombia, and that therefore they wanted the exchange to take place in that country.

The phone conversation lasted approximately five minutes. It was obvious that the person who called disguised his voice in order not to be identified. Ota was kidnapped on 14 March, and the corpse of a man, which authorities claim to be his, was found on 26 March in Llano Torti, Chepo.

An official source confided to EL SIGLO that there is a similarity between the voice of the person who called EL SIGLO on 26 March and the one of the person who called the Citizen Company minutes later. The source said there is strong evidence that those behind the kidnapping are former soldiers who want to settle accounts with Leslie Loaiza, former chief of the Homicide Department of the National Department of Investigation and former director of the Judicial Technical Police, whom they regard as "a traitor."

Cuba Rejects Request for Gomez Extradition

PA2603155992 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Mar 92 p 1-A

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has announced the Cuban Government's rejection of Panama's request for the extradition of former Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) Legislator Luis Gomez.

Gomez is sought by the Panamanian authorities for his alleged involvement in the 1975 disappearance of student Rita Wald.

Cruz announced Cuba's decision in a message he sent on 12 March to the acting director of legal affairs and treaties at the Panamanian Foreign Ministry.

On 19 March Cruz sent a message to Raul Rosales, prosecutor of the second superior court of the first judicial district, in which he reported the Cuban Government's decision "not to agree to the extradition request filed for Panamanian citizen Luis Gomez by the Attorney General's Office during the official inquiry into the disappearance of student Rita Wald."

Following the U.S. invasion of Panama in December 1989, Gomez sought asylum at the Cuban Embassy in Panama City. Early in 1991 he traveled to Havana on a safe-conduct.

Relations between Panama and Cuba are at their lowest level because of the insults exchanged by both nation's top authorities over the U.S. military action.

In his message, Cruz mentions that to hear Gomez' testimony it may be necessary for the District Attorney's Office to issue a "mandatory letter" or requisition.

While in Panama, Gomez denied any involvement in Wald's disappearance but her relatives assert that Gomez, a collaborator of Manuel Antonio Noriega's, was indeed involved.

Editorial Lambastes Government, Politicians

PA2703194992 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Mar 92 p a4

[Editorial: "In the Face of Yet Another Political Circus"]

[Text] The Panamanian community no longer seems surprised about political events in the country. Since the start of the current government, following the bloody U.S. invasion, the citizenry have not been been able to find one instant of calm and rest. Hardly a week has elapsed without a huge scandal breaking out. Ironically, the conflicts have taken place among the parties that supported the current administration during the past elections. The struggle for power has concentrated primarily among those who campaigned together during the May 1989 elections. On 25 March, another of the many

political incidents that have been undermining the structures of the budding Panamanian democracy took place. Christian Democratic Party [PDC] legislators presented criminal charges before the attorney general's office against Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles for alleged embezzlement and abuse of authority. Because of the political repercussions, the charge produced, as expected, a great deal of disquiet among official circles.

The charge, far from having to undergo the regular procedures through the attorney general's office, moved center stage to the Legislative Assembly. There, with the sudden presence of Comptroller General Carles, the case was examined. Regrettably, the legislative arena became a circus spectacle, which in no way benefits the country. We will not go into the intimate details of the criminal charge. We believe this role should be played by agents from the attorney general's office and the Justice Branch. The Constitution and the laws determine what course the accusers and the authorities must take to clarify the much discussed case. What we cannot shirk is a serious evaluation of what is happening in the country and the exaggerated use of democratic liberties. We know that legislators from all political parties have the duty to present this type of charge against government officials, regardless of hierarchy. We also know the defendant has the right to present his or her plea. What is unbearable is the way the country is being led. There is a clear tendency for scandals, circus-like spectacles, and figuring politically in the news.

All of Panama has turned into a verbal skirmish and a huge political boxing ring. Resentment and retaliation would seem more important to our leaders than our people's social needs. While there are Panamanians who are jobless, suffer from ill health, deficient education, lack of housing, and terrible poverty, Comptroller Carles and the PDC call each other all sorts of names, President Endara calls the Chamber of Commerce members a bunch of "hysterical old women," and demonstrations are held to run down the justice tribunals. There are never-ending quarrels between those who are obliged to be an example of civic behavior and citizen unity. We have returned once again to the times when personal and official reputations systematically roll through the miasma. Scandal has replaced peace and vituperation has replaced good judgment. Constant political squabbles that have been causing national unrest have become the foreign investors' worst enemy. The investors view the atmosphere in the country with mistrust.

The Panamanian people, who expected great social and political accomplishments as part of the yearned-for democracy, continue to view their leaders with frustration and with total mistrust. The hope to push on with the country's great tasks is lost amid a whirlpool of political scheming that is swallowing up the dearest yearnings of a people who had put all their faith into their new leaders. Today, in the face of the conflictive and circus-like outlook, the disappointment is even greater and more puzzling.

Endara Accused of Jeopardizing Canal's Ecology

PA2803232792 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 28 Mar 92 p 5A

[Article by Eduardo Soto]

[Text] Legislator Leo Gonzalez said on 27 March that Panama is not complying with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties wherein it is established that Panama must preserve the forest reserves in the Panama Canal's hydrographic basin, while he criticized President Guillermo Endara for allowing the destruction and harmful use of the reverted areas.

According to the Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] legislator, the 1977 treaties point out that it is Panama's responsibility to prevent the ecological devastation of the canal basin. Gonzalez claims that this is not being done, as the authorities are allowing "squatters to invade" these areas "by the hordes."

Gonzalez said: "Makeshift houses are springing up like mushrooms" in the reverted areas.

Gonzalez' statements coincide with charges made by a group of Panamanian businessmen with regard to the devastation of 500 hectares of forest land in the reverted area, less than eight miles from downtown Panama City.

Forest land that comprises the canal basin in Lake Alajuela, Colon, Chilibre, Arraijan, and now in the capital have been cleared by peasant squatters.

Leo Gonzalez, who belongs to the Legislative Commission for Panama Canal matters, criticized the Presidency for dragging its feet with regard to canal issues, and said that the president is addicted to creating commissions. Gonzalez rejects the idea of creating "commissions and more commissions" without "making a definite decision."

According to the legislator, President Endara should make his own decisions, create the necessary institutions, and stop putting off a situation that is placing the future of the canal in danger.

Meanwhile, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara rejected Gonzalez' statements and said that the legislator was mistaken to think that the issue should be dealt with only by the Presidency without taking into account the other sectors.

"I am not party to that kind of action," stressed the president, who issued a decree on 27 March creating a new "Presidential Commission on the Authority of the Interoceanic Region." The commission is preparing a draft bill to create, organize, and regulate the state institution that will administrate the canal after the year 2000.

Representatives of the nation's five political parties as well as Panamanian businessmen and diplomats will participate in this commission.

The president did not include in the commission representatives of the labor sector or members of other sectors to avoid dragging out of the discussions.

Argentina

Nicaragua's Chamorro Arrives, Comments on Cuba

PY2703182392 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2334 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (NA)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro today called upon the Cuban people "to liberate themselves from the obsolete dictatorship." She also expressed satisfaction with the results of her visit to the country, especially the economic cooperation and antinarcotics agreements.

Chamorro today concluded an official visit of approximately 30 hours to Argentina, during which she met with President Carlos Menem, attended a legislative assembly, and met with members of the Supreme Federal Court.

The widow of former dictator of the newspaper LA PRENSA Pedro Joaquin Chamorro this afternoon granted a news conference in a hotel in the capital just before departing for Chile, the last stopover on her tour of the Southern Cone.

In her meeting with local and foreign reporters, the Nicaraguan president was accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Ernesto Leal, Economy Minister Jose Cardenas, and Gilberto Bergman Padilla, a representative of the Argentine Government.

Regarding the Cuban situation, Chamorro expressed her confidence that "free elections will be held as soon as possible to liberate the people from an obsolete dictatorship, because that is the desire of our sister nations who want peace and democracy."

She added: "President Menem and I did not talk about this matter. We dicussed our problems and did not discuss internal problems of other countries."

She added that they signed legal cooperation and assistance agreements related to the antinarcotics struggle and the economy.

She stressed the agreements achieved in the livestock and agricultural areas and the assistance agreements in the field of electric power, as well as those related to technological aid and scholarships for professionals.

"My country's youth want to study. They no longer want to use rifles and go to war. We now need schools and universities," she said.

The Nicaraguan debt with Argentina totals some $60 million. She expressed satisfaction over the agreements achieved—a refinancing over 15 years at an advantageous interest rate—and added: "We inherited a country that was completely bankrupt."

The questions posed by reporters on the Nicaraguan economy were answered by the economy minister, who reaffirmed the strengthening of the plan to return the land expropriated by the Sandinists and the sale of state companies.

"We have already returned more than 120 companies to private hands, but there are still great industries—like the sugar refineries—which we will sell very soon, and that is why we want to study the Argentine privatization experience," Cardenas explained.

The Nicaraguan economy minister acknowledged the "heavy" unemployment that affects his country, arguing that it is being aggravated by "the large number of our fellow citizens who are returning to the country since the change of government and the lack of job opportunities."

Cardenas said: "A public investment plan of some $280 million has been implemented, which is five times greater than last year's investment, and we believe it will provide employment for some 80,000 people."

To give an idea of the economic situation encountered by Chamorro's economic team on assuming power and the changes that have taken place to date, Cardenas recalled that "during the first year of our government, hyperinflation registered 55,000 percent; in the second year, inflation was 3 percent with a growth rate of between 3 and 5 percent."

Menem on Rio Group, Terrorism, Magdalena Jail

PY2703195192 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2007 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has stressed that combating terrorism is a priority for Argentina. He emphasized his decision to use, if necessary, the Armed Forces.

He said that to end terrorism it is necessary "to use everything at our disposal and to ask for international cooperation." Menem noted: "This is a priority here, and if it becomes necessary to use our Armed Forces to combat this scourge, we will."

Menem held a news conference at the Alvear Palace Hotel after inaugurating a meeting of the Rio Group foreign ministers.

Asked about the railroad workers conflict, the president stressed: "No one will blackmail this government. Those who do not work will not get paid."

Menem added that through our participation in the Rio Group, "we will strengthen our democracies in an atmosphere of justice and peace." The continuity of democracy is the main issue that the Argentine delegation will raise.

The president said: "Argentina entirely supports democracy and we will continue on this path until every country on the continent achieves democracy." He added that to achieve this goal there are mechanisms like

the OAS and the United Nations, "which must be strengthened and revitalized."

Addressing the situation of former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown, Menem said: "The events in Haiti are a slap in the face." Concerning Cuba, Menem said: "We expect it to be democratized." Nevertheless, he clarified: "This does not imply meddling in the domestic affairs of another nation."

Menem confirmed that during the two-day Rio Group meeting Argentina "will propose common mechanisms and safeguards to fight the continuing terrorist attacks" in the wake of the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. The president then stressed that combating terrorism is a priority. He said: "We will use our Armed Forces if it becomes necessary in our struggle against this scourge."

Asked about his relationship with Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, Menem said: "Undoubtedly, the reports of confrontations are part of a slanderous campaign by some small groups that fare badly when Argentina fares well."

Menem also announced that the government will take "very strict" measures against those responsible for the incident in the Magdalena Penitentiary so that it is run like "a jail and not a country club."

Charges Against Iran Called 'Pure Speculation'

PY2703210492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2026 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (TELAM)—Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano today labeled reports that the people responsible for the attack on the Israeli Embassy were assisted by the Iranian diplomatic mission "pure speculation" because "there is no evidence, and it is not included in the pretrial inquest."

Manzano added: "This information is provided by the Supreme Court because it is carrying out the pretrial inquest."

Regarding the presence of more police personnel at each embassy, Manzano said: "I ordered the Federal Police chief to put a policeman in front of the door of each embassy as a result of the exceptional situation created by the attack, but this is not a usual procedure."

Manzano said that the people responsible for the telephone threats and other similar acts are "crazy individuals and terrorists who want to create uneasiness and concern among the population in a country where people want to live and work in peace."

He added: "We take the threats seriously. For example, we send the bomb squad when there are bomb threats. We should not give in to pressure from the people who began this psychological campaign."

Suspects in Israeli Embassy Bombing Released

PY2903215492 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Mar 92 pp 1, 4

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The four Pakistani citizens arrested a week ago as suspects in the bomb attack that destroyed Israel's embassy here were released yesterday afternoon due to a lack of evidence although charges have not yet been dropped against them. They remain indicted.

"For now (the individuals) will be released because there is not sufficient proof" linking them to the attack that claimed at least 28 lives and wounded more than 250 on March 17, said Supreme Court Justice Ricardo Levene Jr. in announcing the court's decision.

Levene reminded reporters that although the Pakistanis were to be released from the central courthouse where they had been held since being captured in a police raid at an apartment in Bulnes Street 260 last Saturday [21 March], they would still be considered suspects "because several loose ends that have not been exhaustively analyzed must still be investigated."

According to news reports Mohammed Azam, Mohammed Nawaz, Mohammed Nawaz Chaudhary and Azhar Igbal appeared visibly shaken as they climbed into a Fiat Duna outside the courthouse with their two lawyers, Federico Figueroa and Jorge Kent, and drove off to the Bulnes Street residence they had been taken from. The prisoners' release came some three hours after it was announced due to complications with their visas.

While all of the suspects, who were questioned by the court on Thursday and Friday, are men, some previous news reports had incorrectly reported that one of the detainees was a woman.

Levene also revealed yesterday that the court is still searching for several individuals who may be involved in the case. They include the Pakistani owner of the Bulnes street apartment, who is abroad although his Argentine wife is reported to be here, the individual who may have purchased the vehicle at an above-market price that was allegedly loaded with explosives and used in the attack and the former valet of Pakistan's ambassador here, Raja Trivid Roy. The valet was reported to have driven by the embassy on a motorcycle at a high speed minutes before the blast, and documents of his were supposedly found in the raided apartment.

Federal Police and SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] officials have revealed that the pickup truck allegedly used to trigger the explosion was purchased from a dealer at Juan B. Justo 7537 by an individual bearing falsified Brazilian documents. Although rumors have circulated that Israel's MOSSAD had found human remains in the vehicle, Levene yesterday denied having any information on that story.

Ex-Military Man, Brazilian Sought in Bombing

PY2903220292 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2014 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 29 Mar (NA)—It was learned today that the Federal Police and the intelligence services of several countries working in Argentina are looking for a former Argentine military man and a Brazilian citizen for their alleged involvement in the bloody attack that destroyed the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.

The former Argentine military man and the Brazilian citizen are reportedly on a list of 10 suspects who are being intensely sought by those investigating the 16 March attack that destroyed the Israeli Embassy, killing over 20 people and injuring 200.

Sources close to the investigation have reported that eight of those on the list of fugitives are of Arab descent, but their nationalities are not known.

A newspaper report published today states that the Argentine military man has reportedly traveled to the Middle East several times in the last two years.

Regarding the Brazilian citizen, the report states that he has been identified as Elias Ribeiro da Luz and that on 21 February he purchased the station wagon in which the explosives that destroyed the Israeli Embassy in Argentina were placed.

Sources close to the investigation of the attack have leaked that members of the security services in charge of the investigations into the Israeli Embassy attack identified the engine number of the station wagon used in the explosion. They added that the investigators have also established where and when the vehicle was purchased.

They added that the station wagon was reportedly purchased at a Villa Luro neighborhood dealership for $3,000. [passage omitted]

Bomb Threats at Japanese, Lebanese Embassies

PY2903234892 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Mar 92 p 11

[Excerpts] (NA-DYN)—A total of 750 Federal Police officers were assigned yesterday by the Interior Ministry to help bolster security levels at foreign embassies in this city. The decision was made due to the sudden rise in telephone threats regarding the placing of bombs following the attack that destroyed the Israeli Embassy. [passage omitted]

The embassies of Japan and Lebanon became the most recent victims of such telephone threats yesterday. Police bomb squads responded to the calls by searching the buildings and determining both to be false alarms. The Lomas de Zamora newspaper La Union was also the victim of a bomb threat causing its offices to be evacuated before police ruled it a false alarm, too.

The Foreign Ministry also denied yesterday a journalist's report that police had relaxed security levels at the embassies a few months ago.

Bolivia

Cespedes on Impact of Sale of U.S. Tin Reserves

PY2803190092 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] The possible sale of U.S. tin reserves will pose a serious threat to the Bolivian economy.

Information Minister Jaime Cespedes has stated that should this announcement made in the United States materialize, it will seriously affect not only the Bolivian mining field, but also other areas of the Bolivian economy.

[Begin Cespedes recording] This announcement will definitely affect Comibol [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] and, through Comibol, the medium-sized mining enterprise, all Bolivians, the government, and the budget. We are fully aware of this and we are concerned. [end recording]

The presidential spokesman then said that President Jaime Paz Zamora had instructed all cabinet members to resort to all necessary means to solve the problem affecting Bolivian teachers.

VAT Increase To Cover Drop in Oil Income

PY2903001092 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] In May 1992 Bolivia must make up $311 million through customs tariffs, tax revenues, and a corresponding adjustment of the value-added tax [VAT].

Planning and Coordination Minister Samuel Doria Medina explained the effect that the drop in gas sales to Argentine will have and the way the govenment plans to compensate for this drop in income.

[Begin Doria recording] There are two reasons for the drop in the price of oil exported to Argentina: first, the drop in international market prices following the end of the Gulf war. To give you an example, the price in May 1991 was $4 per 1,000 cubic feet, but due to the drop in international oil prices, our last sales were for only $2.50. The second reason pertains to the deregulation of the Argentine gas market, which will start in May and end in December 1993.

We estimate that each point increase in the VAT will yield an additional $20 million. This $20 million will be collected in 12 months. Therefore, by increasing the VAT three points, we hope to collect an additional $60 million in the next 12 months. If we refer to 1992 alone, the Treasury will have an additional income of $44 million as a result of the increase in the VAT. [end recording]

Suspected EGTK Leader 'El Loro' Arrested

PY2803141892 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 92

["Special report" by correspondent Edwin Avalos in Cochabamba]

[Text] Good morning, Bolivia. As we reported in a previous program, the presumed head of the Tupac Katari Guerrilla Army [EGTK] has been arrested in the vast tropical zone of the Chapare.

Commander Loro, or Tiburcio, was found in the vast tropical zone while carrying a very modern weapon. We must report that El Loro was trained in Cuba and Nicaragua.

In addition, investigations regarding the theft of the money earmarked for Greater San Simon University have been concluded. That robbery also is linked to the EGTK. The Garcia brothers are the instigators and perpetrators of this robbery of approximately $500,000. Cochabamba police officials reported that the money cannot be recovered because it was reportedly used to purchase weapons for the EGTK.

Peasants from the Chapare tropical zone reported to this correspondent that not only is EGTK leader El Loro living in the vast tropical region of the Chapare, but many other undocumented foreigners are living there as well.

It is appropriate to mention that there are no immigration officials in the Chapare region. The Immigration Departmental Board has reported that La Paz Department ordered Cochabamba officials not to operate in the Chapare region. For that reason, the Chapare is no-man's-land. There are many undocumented foreigners in the region, and the La Paz Immigration Department has instructed the Cochabamba branch office not to enter the region. We do not know the reasons for this suspicious order, but we are certain that within the next few hours immigration officials will visit the region. There are hundreds of foreigners in the region, and no one knows for sure what activities they are carrying out. We hope they are not doing what we think: They may be conducting war training, as reported by peasants of the region.

Chile

Nicaragua's Chamorro Arrives for Official Visit

PY2703131692 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Relay by Fidel Oyarzun at Pudahuel Airport]

[Text] A few minutes ago, Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro arrived at the Santiago international airport. At this moment she is chatting with the media and greeting the country.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] After two years as head of the Nicaraguan Government, and taking into account the economic difficulties you have endured, what do you consider to be your main achievement?

[Chamorro] The main achievement has been to end the war and to be able to live in peace, reconciled and enjoying freedom of the press as you do here.

I thank you very much, but we are going to hold a news conference before we return to Nicaragua. So good evening, we will meet again tomorrow.

[Reporter] Mrs. Chamorro, what is your opinion of the transition process experienced by our country?

[Chamorro] I view it as a very nice, very democratic process, things to which we all aspire on our American Continent. Thank you. [end recording]

These were the brief comments of Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro who, we repeat, has just arrived for an official visit to Chile.

Meets With Aylwin

PY2803165292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Nicaragua needs a lot of help. I am very happy to be in Chile, because it is the only country to which we owe nothing. These were Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro's initial comments after a 50-minute meeting with President Patricio Aylwin.

Obviously hoarse, the Nicaraguan president said that her country has many needs—such as scholarships for university students—and Chile can lend a hand in that field.

Violeta Chamorro also referred to the situation in Chile:

[Begin Chamorro recording] Thank God, as I have already said, I believe we are very similar and everything can be solved through dialogue, reconciliation, pardons, and by finding a solution to our problems. [end recording]

In assessing her government's performance, she said it was successful because it had managed to stop a war among Nicaraguans during which some 50,000 people died fighting to defend an ideology that is now obsolete.

The Nicaraguan and Chilean Governments later signed a technical and scientific cooperation agreement in (Montbaras) Hall in La Moneda Palace. The agreement signed by Presidents Aylwin and Chamorro establishes the exchange of experts, scholarships for specialized studies, and the creation and functioning of research institutes and laboratories.

The Nicaraguan and Chilean foreign ministers, Ernesto Leal and Enrique Silva Cimma respectively, also attended the ceremony.

In the evening, the Chilean Government feted Violeta Chamorro with a dinner party at La Moneda Palace.

On the occasion, President Aylwin recalled Ruben Dario [Nicaraguan poet], who initiated ties between the two nations more than a century ago.

Aylwin also praised the Nicaraguan Government for strongly supporting the peace-seeking process in Central America.

Finally, Aylwin proposed a toast to Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and to the success of her efforts to consolidate peace, democracy, and justice.

Concludes Visit

PY3003025892 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro today concluded her official visit to Chile. The Nicaraguan president returned to Nicaragua today, thus ending a tour that took her to Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.

After a three-day visit to Chile, Violeta Chamorro left for Miami, where she will make a stopover before arriving in Nicaragua tomorrow. She was seen off at the airport by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and Protocol Department Chief Carlos Klammer.

During her visit to Chile, Chamorro held meetings with President Aylwin and other high-ranking government officials. Furthermore, Chile and Nicaragua signed a series of technical, scientific, and urban cooperation agreements.

Commission Formed To Investigate Espionage Case

PY2703153892 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies held a heated session today in Valparaiso during which legislators and ministers discussed the polemic case of political espionage at length.

The debate focused on the responsibility the Investigative Police and the Army Intelligence Directorate [DINE] have in the case. That was the main issue of the session that was full of surprises and heated discussions.

The deputies decided to create a special commission to investigate the case.

The lower house's special session to learn the details of charges made by UDI [Independent Democratic Union] Deputies Andres Chadwick and Pablo Longeira created a great deal of anticipation. Proof of that was the great number of people that gathered in the gallery, including a Communist Party delegation.

The participation of four ministers showed how much importance the government gave the session.

The first minister to address the session was Interior Minister Enrique Krauss, who energetically urged the UDI to explain to the country how it obtained the secret reports.

Krauss surprisingly produced new secret documents revealing the Investigative Police's intelligence activities. Krauss exhibited eight internal circulars, six more than the ones exhibited by the UDI when it made its charges, in addition to another document on police intelligence activities. That ruined the UDI's warning on the possibility of producing a third document directly linking 14 government officials to political espionage activities.

Krauss admitted that three authorities, among them the national defense chief of staff, received a weekly report on police activities to fight delinquency, but no reports were receive regarding the questioned investigative activities.

[Begin Krauss recording] At the end of the investigations, we can assert that we lack any evidence that the so-called political espionage took place. [end recording]

Krauss added that the office of the Intelligence Police Department discovered by the UDI on Valentin Letelier Street was working on the Edwards [abduction of EL MERCURIO manager Cristian Edwards] and Guzman [murdered UDI Senator Jaime Guzman] cases.

[Begin recording] [Several deputies speaking loudly heard in the background] [Chamber of Deputies President Antonion Viera Gallo] Silence; it is the minister's turn to speak.

[Krauss] Mr. President, I can see there are some deputies who are about to have a nervous breakdown.

[Viera Gallo] Silence. I urge everyone to..... [end recording]

The UDI's much-anticipated participation followed the intervention of representatives from the Coalition of Parties of Democracy and the National Renewal Party.

[Begin Chadwick recording] At least one intelligence unit of the Investigative Police of Chile is currently, and probably since 1991, engaged in political espionage activities. [end recording]

After a four-hour debate, the Chamber of Deputies approved the creation of a commission that will be in charge of investigating the case of political espionage.

Police Officer Indicted

PY2803030892 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Limache Investigative Police Officer Juan Manuel Arias Ahumada was indicted this afternoon and charged with violating Articles 242 and 246 of the Penal Code.

The resolution was signed by Judge Rosario Lavin, who refused to answer questions from the media, and was released this afternoon in Limache by Attorney Fernando Uribe Echeverria. Uribe said his client was indicted on charges of revealing secrets and disloyalty in guarding documents. The lawyer said that the prosecution is not telling all the facts when mentioning Article 242 and that Article 246 can only result in administrative sanctions or suspension because there was no damage to the public interest.

[Begin Uribe recording] I do not think my client runs any risk of being penalized because there is juridical confusion about how to qualify the violation. The charge based on Article 242 is totally out of order. Nothing was destroyed; that law does not apply here. Article 246 establishes the penalty of suspension from the job unless there is serious damage to the public interest, in which case the penalty includes imprisonment. There is no damage to the public interest here. The defense thinks the officer is facing suspension at the most. He has just told me that he prefers suspension or even imprisonment over spying on his fellow citizens, as he was ordered to do. [end recording]

Lawyer Uribe said earlier that Officer Juan Arias testified that this January he received an order to spy on General Augusto Pinochet, the Army commander in chief, while he was staying at a hotel in Holmue. This order moved Arias to give a copy of the secret Investigative Police order to the Army Intelligence Directorate, DINE.

Lawyer Uribe said he would appeal Judge Lavin's order immediately and that Valparaiso's Appelate Court will decide on the appeal between 30 and 31 March.

Rojas Calls Espionage Explanation 'Unacceptable'

PY2703033292 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas has termed as unacceptable the explanation given by the Army Intelligence Directorate [DINE] as to why it did not disclose the contents of a report on political espionage that it has had since last January.

Rojas was asked about the issue this afternoon after participating in a special Chamber of Deputies session to discuss the case of political espionage recently denounced by the Independent Democratic Union.

Minister Rojas reiterated that the information he has received so far confirms that the Army, specifically DINE, received information on political espionage two months ago. He stated that DINE should explain why the information was not given to superiors in a timely manner. Rojas also referred to the explanation personally given to him by DINE Director General Sergio Covarrubias [name and title as heard].

[Begin recording] [Rojas] As I have already pointed out, the origin and authenticity of the documents are being verified, but that could not take more than 60 days, especially if it is being carried out by a state intelligence organization.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Rojas] No, I think it is unacceptable.

[Reporter] Do you feel your authority as defense minister has been trespassed upon?

[Rojas] No, because according to the official information we have, the commander in chief was also unaware of the information. Therefore, if he did not have the information, he could hardly give it to the defense minister. [end recording]

Minister Rojas refused to refer to the situation of the DINE official who, according to some rumors, is under arrest. He only commented that corresponding investigations are being conducted within the Army. Rojas commented that if anybody is found guilty during the investigations, he will be duly sanctioned with disciplinary measures. The minister also said that there is no deadline for these investigations, although he voiced his hope that the case will be clarified soon because available preliminary information confirms that the Army had this information two months ago.

Deems Communique 'Inexplicable'

PY2803211892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas has asserted that the intelligence services do not fight each other. He also disclosed that he met with the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and Carabineros to overcome this incident.

Rojas emphasized that the true threats in Chile do not lie in the intelligence services, and he instructed the defense organization to end surveillance activities that affect people or individual rights.

[Begin Rojas recording] Here in Chile there are no enemies within the Armed Forces and police. The only enemy Chile has is the enemy that may affect its external security and, internally, violations of the law; that is, terrorism, crime, delinquency, and drug trafficking. [end recording]

Regarding the investigation itself, Rojas said that each and every institute must act according to its responsibility. He also said that he is not going to begin assessing individual actions.

Rojas also termed inexplicable the Army communique admitting it carried out counterintelligence activities, which are used for foreign enemies and not to follow people.

[Begin Rojas recording] That is the institution's position, which, as I stated before the Chamber of Deputies and now reiterate publicly, is inexplicable. Counterintelligence, by definition—as I explained to the Chamber of Deputies—represents the Army's action in view of any threat that enemy intelligence may pose to its authorities or to the military infrastructure. Therefore, an Investigative Police intelligence service, which is a state organ, cannot be termed as such. [end recording]

The threats do not lie in the police or intelligence services, and those who long for authoritarism remind us of the times when people in this country were constantly under surveillance.

Regarding the comments by the Navy commander in chief, Rojas said that there has been a misinterpretation because the law also establishes regulations for the various military services.

Police Accuse Army of Espionage in Letelier Case

PY2903233992 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas said today that surveillance activities by the police and the Armed Forces must come to an end.

Interior Minister Enrique Krauss also confirmed today that the Investigative Police accused the Army Intelligence Directorate of carrying out surveillance on police officials who are investigating the Letelier murder case. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Rojas recalled that the only accusations of surveillance of individuals were received in 1990 and that the police services were informed that it was not appropriate to carry out surveillance on any of the Armed Forces commanders. The accusations were made by the Navy and the Army.

A new accusation has just been made by the Investigative Police, which reported to the interior minister that the Army Intelligence Directorate is reportedly carrying out surveillance on the chief of the police unit that is investigating the Letelier murder case.

[Begin Krauss recording] The accusation was made by the Investigative Police director, and I submitted it to the defense minister, who is responsible for making an appropriate investigation of the case. [end recording]

The accusation will also be studied by a special committee of the Chamber of Deputies, which will meet next week to investigate the case. There is a consensus among various sectors about the need to implement a policy of internal security to put the activities of the intelligence services in order, because as the Interior Ministry under secretary said: It seems we are witnessing a real espionage psychosis.

Correa Comments on Political Espionage Charges

PY2703010492 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Interview via relay with Enrique Correa, minister secretary general of government, by anchorman Bernardo de la Maza in studio—live]

[Text] [De la Maza] Good evening, Minister.

[Correa] How are you, Bernardo? It is a pleasure.

[De la Maza] The pleasure is mine. You know, Minister, there are a number of interesting issues I would like to discuss with you. First, I would like to remind you that the Independent Democratic Union [UDI] has said that 14 members of the administration knew about this political espionage business. Also, Carlos Toro, former Investigative Police deputy director [during the Allende administration], has said that the administration is always informed of any important investigative action under way.

I believe the citizenry is wondering how government officials could have remained ignorant of such an important development?

[Correa] Well, let us take one thing at a time. The truth is that the UDI's charges—now supported by the Communist Party—are groundless, because when they say that 14 government officials received a report from the Investigative Police, they are talking about an old report that had no connection to the circular letter [with instructions to Investigative Police officers].

The interior minister and the president have already said that we were not aware of the circular letter, and as soon as we found out about it, we took action in keeping with the magnitude of the mistake that had been made. We also categorically rejected the content of and the ideas expressed in the circular letter.

Therefore, by saying over and over again that the administration, all the way up to the president of the nation, was aware of this piece of information, the UDI—and now the Communist Party through Carlos Toro—are offending the president.

Our position in this affair has been straightforward: We have rejected the contents of the circular letter. The administration never received any report that had anything to do with the instructions issued in this circular letter. We suspect that the circular letter was never implemented, because we have no reports indicating that any of the instructions contained in the circular letter were carried out.

That is the truth, and we are so sure of ourselves that we have asked the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies to hold a special session during which we want to report on this complex issue in full, including the role played by the Army Intelligence Directorate [DINE].

[De la Maza] Well, yes. Now, Minister, I believe the country is watching with surprise as the Investigative Police engages in espionage while Dine engages in counterespionage. What is going on? Has the government lost control of the security organizations? Are we expected to believe that this is a normal part of transition to democracy?

[Correa] Here, too, we must take things one at a time. I do not believe that we can definitely state that the Investigative Police engaged in political espionage, because the only evidence currently available is a circular letter containing objectives that we have rejected. There is no evidence that the instructions contained in the circular letter were ever implemented.

We do have evidence of the role that DINE played in this affair. Prefect Arias [former Limache Investigative Police deputy commissioner] turned the circular letter over to a DINE officer, and that very same circular letter was later released by UDI congressmen.

The important thing, however, is that the people want their political authorities, the very same political authorities that they elect in presidential and congressional elections, to have greater power and greater control over security and intelligence activities. For this, we need appropriate laws.

Thus, we believe that while this debate and this exchange of explanations is necessary, the key issue is not to continue exchanging accusations forever but to seek an agreement on laws that will control security and intelligence activities through regulations in keeping with the democratic status quo. That is the real point.

[De la Maza] Minister, Limache Deputy Commissioner Juan Manuel Arias is under arrest for turning over the documents to DINE, as you said. What should this minor official have done when he found out about these illegal activities? You are going to tell me that he should have gone through channels, but, most likely, he thought the Investigative Police director and the interior minister were aware of what was going on. Thus, what should he have done?

[Correa] Well, I believe that, in any case, he should have told his superiors that the orders he had received appeared illegal to him.

He could have done other things. He probably could have released the information some other way. It is debatable whether he should have turned over the information directly to congressmen. There is room for debate about that because Congress has oversight functions. It is not, however, acceptable under any circumstances for him to turn over secret, confidential material from his organization to another service. That cannot be justified in any police or intelligence service anywhere in the world.

[De la Maza] Colonel Cristian Labbe, retired, [minister secretary of government under Pinochet] said today that the Chilean Investigative Police have a plan called Falcon-2, which is aimed against the Army and against General Pinochet. Can such a plan exist without the government knowing anything about it?

[Correa] Well, the circular letter mentions that issue in general terms; however, if the Army obtained information about the plan through its special services, it should have informed the government about it. Under the current institutional status quo, having services that see each other as enemies is inconceivable.

Our state is a single unit. We cannot imagine that one service could be the enemy of another service, nor can we tolerate one service spying on another service. If anyone comes across information of a doubtful nature, information that could jeopardize the security or private life of the commander in chief of the Army, that information should be conveyed to the appropriate authorities. No one can understand why the information, which according to the Army Communications Department has been in DINE hands since January, was not turned over to the government. In fact, we have ascertained that even the office of the commander in chief of the Army knew nothing about it.

[De la Maza] Well, Minister, thank you for answering these questions and our concerns.

[Correa] Thank you, Bernardo.

[De la Maza] Good evening.

Foreign Minister 'Deceived' in Honecker Case

PY2703142692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Excerpts] National Renewal Senator Ignacio Perez Walker has said that Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has been deceived by Chilean Embassy staffers in Moscow and by Chilean Ambassador to Moscow Clodomiro Almeyda in connection with the Honecker case.

[Begin Perez Walker recording] We have information that one week before Mr. Honecker entered the Chilean Embassy in Moscow, either Chilean Embassy officials or the ambassador permitted Mr. Honecker's files, clothing, bags, and belongings to be brought into the embassy. Consequently, when Ambassador Almeyda came to Chile—two days before Mr. Honecker was actually admitted to the embassy—the fact that Honecker would move to the embassy was already known. In fact, embassy staffers allowed Mr. Honecker's belongings, clothing and files to be brought to the embassy some days before. [end recording]

The senator said that the foreign minister should explain the situation when he returns from Argentina. He also said that the case already had been reported to a Foreign Ministry official.

He concluded by saying that the foreign minister was deceived by Chilean diplomats and by Ambassador Clodomiro Almeyda himself.

Even though the foreign minister has not yet replied to Sen. Perez Walker's observation, Ambassador Almeyda did refer to it. The ambassador admitted that Honecker's belongings were brought to the embassy before he actually moved there. He noted, however, that this happened in October, two months before the former East German leader entered the embassy.

We should recall that on that occasion, Perez Walker demanded that the Foreign Ministry prove that the ambassador was not planning to grant asylum to the former communist leader. Almeyda said that even though some of Honecker's belongings were brought to the embassy, that had nothing to do with the fact that he later came to the embassy. [passage omitted]

Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa, said here in Santiago that it will be impossible for Honecker to travel to North Korea.

Ambassador Denies Accusations

PY2803185492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Chilean Ambassador to Moscow Clodomiro Almeyda emphatically rejected what he termed a slanderous rumor that the arrival of the Honeckers' luggage and belongings at the embassy confirm that his entry to the embassy was not something sudden, but rather carefully planned beforehand, according to the National Renewal Party.

Almeyda said that the transfer of Honecker's goods from Berlin to Moscow and their temporary storage in his residence took place more than two months before Honecker asked for asylum at the Chilean Embassy.

When asked about his wife's participation in this case by first allowing the entry of the Honeckers' belongings and then the couple, Almeyda said with annoyance that his wife had acted for humanitarian reasons. [passage omitted]

Almeyda added that the parcels did not contain any archives, documents, or especially valuable objects; therefore, neither Chilean or international laws had been violated.

Police Intelligence Department Director Appointed

PY2803033692 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Summary] Prefect Haroldo Lopez Nunez was appointed head of the Investigative Police Intelligence Department. He replaces Prefect Guillermo Mora, who resigned.

Colombia

FARC Claims Responsibility for Attacks

PA2803122492 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—In an anonymous phone call to this network, an alleged source of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia claimed responsibility for the terrorist attacks perpetrated by an urban commando unit in the capital the night of 27 March.

The anonymous caller said the actions that resulted in one person dead and five injured were perpetrated by what he described as the victims of the 16-60, a government decree that gave the green light to the mass dismissal of government workers.

Further on Aftermath

PA2803131192 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—The self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] claimed responsibility for the dynamite attacks perpetrated in the north of the capital on the night of 27 March. The attack resulted in one person killed, five injured, and losses of more than 5 million pesos.

In an anonymous call to this network, an alleged FARC urban commando unit claimed responsibility for the action in the name of the organization and announced that a communique would be released in a few hours to explain the reasons for the attacks. Authorities in Santa Fe de Bogota have reported that these actions could indeed have been perpetrated by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board.

According to the official report, two explosive charges detonated, each made up of 3 kg of ammonia dynamite and fitted with slow fuses. A third was defused. The bombs exploded in front of the Diners Club of Colombia and a Citibank branch. Segundo Pino Guisa, a Diners Club watchman, was killed when he tried to push away the explosive device with his foot as soon as he identified it. The manager of the Metro Riviera Theater prevented a tragedy by throwing the explosive charge several meters away from where dozens of people were standing in line.

Security organizations in Santa Fe de Bogota are conducting a special operation to identify and arrest the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks.

Police Uncover FARC Plot To Kill 29 Persons

PA2803161792 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Report by Herbert Rincon]

[Text] Brigadier General Eduardo Camilo Caldas, commander of the 7th Brigade, reports that military authorities have uncovered a plan by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] to kill 29 persons in the Ariari region.

Military authorities learned about death sentences against farmers, ranchers, and peasants from documents confiscated from the FARC's 26th Front. The majority of these persons belong to the Liberal Party and have refused to support illegal activities.

Camilo Caldas said Federico Polanco, former New Liberal candidate for the Assembly in Meta Department, and Second Sergeant Pedro Ramon Pulido Muneton, commander of the police post at Puerto Gaitan, were killed in the last few days in raids led by rebels. These men were among the 29 persons included on the list, which also includes the commander of the military base in Mesetas.

Camilo Caldas filed suit in a public order court against the commander of the FARC's 26th Front, who is known as Double L, alias Esteban, and other members of that rebel group. Camilo Caldas said these guerrilla activities represent undeniable human rights violations. He added that special hiding places have been created for those who are being threatened to protect their personal identity and that of their family.

Political Leaders Respond to Gaviria's Speech

PA2903143492 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2132 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 28 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Leaders of the country's principal political sectors demanded here on 28 March that the government clarify the future of the peace talks with the guerrillas, which were suspended 21 March in Mexico City.

According to the political leaders, the government has been "imprecise" regarding the fate of the peace talks with the guerrillas. The newspaper EL NUEVO SIGLO said President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo used "vague terms" when discussing that topic on 27 March.

In a message to the nation on 27 March, Gaviria Trujillo reiterated the government's willingness to continue the peace dialogue, but he demanded that the guerrillas "clearly show their desire for peace."

The Colombian president demanded of the rebel groups a cease-fire and an end to kidnappings. The president did not say if the priority discussion of those points is a condition for resuming talks, which were suspended 21 March in Tlaxcala, Mexico after reports of the death of former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero.

The former conservative minister died of a heart attack at the hands of a dissident branch of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL), which kidnapped him on 26 January.

According to the political leaders, they had expected the Colombian president to explain clearly the fate of the peace process with the guerrillas in his speech, aired on radio and television on 27 March, but that was not the case.

The principal political leaders reacted with reservations to the presidential speech, which they termed "imprecise and vague" regarding the future of the talks in Mexico.

Andres Pastrana, leader of the new Democratic Force, said he is "concerned" that the government did not state its official position. "The country was waiting to see whether the talks would be resumed, whether an end to the kidnappings and a unilateral cease-fire on the part of the guerrillas would be conditions for resuming the talks. Those things were not specified," Pastrana stated.

Antonio Navarro Wolf, leader of the M-19 (19 April Movement) Democratic Alliance, said the president's speech was devoid of the proposals the country had expected regarding the peace policy. Senator Rodrigo Marin Bernal of the National Salvation Movement said the president's speech was not satisfactory because of his lack of specifics about the topics broached.

Fabio Valencia Cosio, Conservative Party congressman, said Gaviria Trujillo "did not shed any light on whether the cease-fire was a condition for the guerrillas to resume the talks."

Rodrigo Turbay, president of the Chamber of Representatives, said the talks should be resumed "under two fundamental conditions: the cease-fire and suspension of kidnappings."

The newspaper EL TIEMPO in its 28 March editorial says the acceptance of both points by the guerrillas "would be the magic formula that would permit the public to believe in the sincerity" of the guerrilla groups.

For the most influential Colombian newspaper, the cease-fire and suspension of kidnappings are "two fundamental conditions" on which the guerrillas "have a say."

The newspaper EL ESPECTADOR stated in its 28 March editorial that the political path with the guerrillas "has failed" and that the country expects a response from the government that is in keeping with current reality.

The paper added: "The state, the authorities, the intelligence services, the government in general, and the president have been weak in the face of the atrocities committed by a bloody, fallacious guerrilla group that has been industrialized by the good results of its kidnapping, extortion, and blackmail."

It stated that the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] has increased its attacks "while engaging in dialogue without committing itself to a cease-fire."

From Mexico the CNGSB has demanded the immediate resumption of the dialogue because "an indefinite recess would definitely lead the country toward war."

The rebel representatives in Tlaxcala said the peace process must be resumed without interruption because the analysis of the government's socioeconomic policies was not concluded.

CNGSB Rejects Government Conditions for Talks

PA2903042092 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, CNGSB, on 28 March rejected the conditions imposed by the government to resume the dialogue in Mexico. The insurgents called for an immediate resumption of the dialogue without giving priority to the issues of a cease-fire and the release of persons who have been kidnapped, as President Gaviria had demanded. Aris Fogel filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Fogel] In a communique issued in Mexico, the CNGSB has called for good sense and moderation to analyze and overcome the various obstacles that block the path to peace. However, it firmly maintained its position of respecting the agenda that was being discussed:

[CNGSB Spokesman Alfonso Cano from Tlaxcala, Mexico] At least we should conclude the issues that we have been discussing, because if a process that started eight days ago is abruptly interrupted and the terms are modified, it will lack seriousness. We maintain that we can satisfy those who want to discuss human rights issues, which also interest us very much, and at the same time complete the agenda that we have established.

[Fogel] The guerrillas also warned that an indefinite recess in the negotiations would further tilt the course of the country toward war. [end recording]

Talks To Resume in April

PA2903043292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Despite the guerrillas' stubbornness, the "TV Today" newscast learned on the evening of 28 March that the peace talks will reportedly resume in the second week of April. The government and the guerrillas are advancing contacts to return to the negotiating table. Jesus Garzon has filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Garzon] Despite all the difficulties, President Gaviria will insist on finding a negotiated solution to the armed conflict. To resume the dialogue, however,the government has established two conditions: First, the Popular Liberation Army must explain who kidnapped former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero and why; second, it will demand that the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board assume responsibility for the kidnapping and murder of the former Colombian official.

[Deputy Government Minister Hector Riveros Serrato] What became clear with this horrible crime against former Minister Argelino Duran is that we must discuss, on a priority basis, certain issues that are offending Colombian society on a daily basis.

[Garzon] That means that the agenda agreed upon with the guerrillas will undergo a change in Mexico, because once the dialogue is resumed, the government will corner the guerrillas and demand that they release people who have been kidnapped and an immediate end to the hostilities.

[Riveros] I definitely believe that we must make proposals at the negotiating table under terms that are similar to those you mentioned. We must talk about these conditions without which the process will definitely not take off.

[Garzon] At any rate, the government is convinced that the guerrillas are determined not to negotiate peace, that it will have to use its imagination to persuade the guerrillas to return to civilian life. [end recording]

Army Preparing for War

PA2903123692 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Should efforts to maintain dialogue with the guerrillas fail, the only option left will be military determination and strategy. Let us see how the Armed Forces are gearing up in light of a possible offensive against the guerrillas:

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] It appears the Colombian Army is really preparing to wage war against subversion. It has combat capability estimated at 120,000 men, 14 brigades located strategically throughout the country, and two mobile brigades made up of 6,000 professional soldiers equipped with M-60 machine guns, Galil rifles, grenade launchers, night vision systems, and other weapons.

The Army announced the creation of a new brigade exclusively dedicated to intelligence duties. Three additional battalions, made up of about 5,000 men who specialize in counterinsurgency, will soon see action. The Army is purchasing mortars and artillery weapons. The Armed Forces' 32 helicopters and other combat aircraft were, logistically speaking, placed under the orders of various Army divisions.

The government is thus preparing to wage the other battle in the war to attain peace should the talks with the guerrillas fail. [end recording]

Guerrillas Hail Adviser's 'Courageous Letter'

PA2703155692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0029 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] La Trinidad, Tlaxcala 26 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board on 26 March hailed the courageous letter presidential peace adviser Horacio Serpa Uribe sent to the Colombian political parties.

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) Commander Alfonso Cano said the document defends the country's peace process.

He added, however, that what the guerrillas want is an answer from President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo so the talks can resume.

Serpa Uribe stated in his letter that individuals who prefer dialogue as a means of reaching agreements and solutions are described as idiots, naive, and accomplices only because they are aware of the scope of the conflict and they are concerned over the situation.

Serpa Uribe said his letter expressed the desire to reach a negotiated solution to the Colombian conflict; to end the murders, kidnappings, extortions, and the destruction of national properties.

He stressed that the talks with the guerrillas are aimed at opening up democratic opportunities in Colombia, because the political situation worldwide discourages armed struggle and the general public rejects the use of force as a means of attaining power.

Serpa said he defended his position, although the government has not stated what the future of the Tlaxcala talks will be, because the talks must be conducted in a climate of tranquillity in order to free them of the consequences of permanent confrontation.

The peace dialogue was suspended on 21 March when President Gaviria Trujillo recalled the government delegation to Colombia.

Paraguay

Cuba Submits Request To Renew Relations

PY2703132092 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Mar 92 p 9

[Text] Foreign Ministry sources on 26 March reported that the Cuban Government has submitted a formal request to the Paraguayan Government to renew diplomatic relations. The request was received by Hugo Saguier Caballero, Paraguayan ambassador to the United Nations, who will send it to our country within the next few days.

Our sources stated that the note, which was sent by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, states that Cuba intends to renew relations with Paraguay, which were interrupted in the early 1960's.

Ambassador Saguier Caballero told Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken about the Cuban proposal, although he has not yet sent the documents.

During the middle of 1991 the foreign minister had said that Paraguay intended to renew talks with Cuba to reestablish consular and trade relations, but the attempt was postponed due to the recent death penalties applied against political prisoners by Fidel Castro.

Armed Forces Told Not To 'Meddle' in Politics

PY2603174092 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 26 Mar 92 p 8

[Text] Referring to charges submitted to President Andres Rodriguez on 24 March that military men are meddling in the internal affairs of the Colorado Party, Division General Humberto Garcete, Army commander in chief, on 25 March said: "This morning we talked with the president, and he stressed that we must comply with the law that bars military men from participating in politics. He said that if the Armed Forces did participate in politics, you can be certain it will not happen again."

Garcete stated: "I do not believe that military men have participated in the internal affairs of the party (meaning the Colorado Party), and I merely impart the directives of the commander in chief during the meetings I have with the commanders."

He addded: "If anyone expressed his opinion on politics or met with politicians, then it must have been as friends with good intentions. I do not believe anyone is involved in politics, I am convinced of that."

Asked about the reaction by students and a large proportion of the population to the interference of military men in politics, Garcete said: "If the people reacted, you can be certain that we must have given them good reason."

The Army commander also said: "I would like the people to tell us what we are doing wrong, because we have our specific sphere of activity and we are trying not to become involved in something that does not concern us."

Asked whether that included meetings between members of the Armed Forces and factions of the Colorado Party, Garcete said: "We have the right to meet. Military men can meet with their friends in the Colorado Party, or in any other party, and that does not mean they are involved in politics."

Peru

State of Emergency Extended in Lima, Callao

PA2803201992 Paris AFP in Spanish 1851 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Lima, 28 Mar (AFP)—It was officially reported today that the Peruvian Government has extended the state of emergency in Lima and Callao, a neighboring

port on the Pacific coast, for 60 days because "terrorist acts continue" in those two cities.

The corresponding decree, published in the official gazette EL PERUANO, said that the state of emergency calls for the suspension of constitutional guarantees and that the Armed Forces will maintain internal control of the Peruvian capital, of the neighboring port of Callao, and of their provinces.

The measure, currently imposed on almost 50 percent of the nation's territory, began in 1980 following a Shining Path uprising in Ayacucho, bastion of the "armed struggle," which has resulted in approximately 25,000 deaths and huge economic losses.

Israeli Embassy in Lima Receives Bomb Threat

PY3003022692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0042 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (EFE)—Bomb squad personnel were deployed to the Israeli Embassy in Lima as a result of an anonymous telephone call reporting that a bomb had been placed in there. The call proved to be a false alarm.

Embassy personnel told employees of the Lima radio station Radioprogramas del Peru that such bomb threats are common at the Israeli diplomatic headquarters.

Although no bomb was found, the number of security agents at the Israeli Embassy was doubled.

Shining Path 'Ideologist' Captured in Junin

PY2703130092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0233 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Lima, 26 Mar (EFE)—Military sources reported on 26 March that eight terrorists, including a person who is considered to be a Shining Path "ideologist," were captured by the forces of order in Junin Department some 340 km east of Lima.

The sources indicated that the capture of Maximo Herrera Sanchez, alias Victor, who is considered to be an "ideologist" in the Shining Path Maoist group, occurred on 25 March in the village of Palian near the city of Huancayo.

Seven terrorist gang members also were arrested in the same place, and weapons, munitions, and propaganda were seized.

Shining Path Leader Escapes Quenccoro Prison

PA2703184692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1757 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Lima 26 Mar (NOTIMEX)—A leader of the Shining Path Maoist guerrilla group known as the "Jackal of the Andes" has escaped from a prison in the southern Andean city of Cuzco and has threatened to kill several political, military, and civilian authorities.

Police sources confirmed the escape of Walter Palacios Sierralta from the Quenccoro Penal Center located 12 kms from the capital city of Cuzco. He had been in prison for the past six years, charged with a series of subversive attacks in southern Peru.

Palacios' escape, which took place on 23 March but was made public on 26 March, caused apprehension among the Cuzco, Arequipa, and Puno authorities. His subversive activities had been concentrated in these areas.

Military and police authorities have been put on red-alert status due to the possibility that subversive activities may resume in the area.

The "Jackal of the Andes," a native of the southern Andean region of Ayacucho, which is considered to be a Shining Path stronghold, is well known for his extreme cruelty while carrying out his guerrilla activities.

Palacios was charged with leading an attack against police garrisons in Cuzco, located 170 kms south of Lima, as well as an attack against three tourists traveling to the Incan city of Machu Picchu on 25 July 1986.

Newspaper sources pointed out that before escaping by climbing the prison walls, Palacios Sierralta left a note addressed to the authorities in which he reaffirmed his loyalty to Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman Reynoso.

President Alberto Fujimori's government is offering a $1 million reward for the capture, "dead or alive", of 61 year-old Guzman Reynoso, who is considered the most wanted man in Peru.

During the last few years, Shining Path has intensified its subversive activities throughout Peru. The guerrillas believe they have finally achieved "strategic equilibrium" with the Armed Forces after 11 years of "dirty fighting."

Through its underground newspaper EL DIARIO, the Maoist organization stated that it expects "to gain power" before the end of this decade.

The increase in armed violence has forced each new administration that comes into power to declare a state of emergency covering half of the national territory, including Lima.

Shining Path's strategy centers on surrounding Lima, whereby they have been able to gain some control of the central mountain range. They also attempt to gain control of the main highways leading to the city.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defense decided to extend the state of emergency in several provinces of the departments of Ucayali, Loreto (located in the Amazonian jungle), Huanuco (central mountain range) for another 60 days due to an increase in guerrilla activities.

The measure, which suspends constitutional guarantees, affects the provinces of Ucayali, (Loreto), Puerto Inca (Huanuco) as well as Coronel Portillo and Padre Abad (Ucayali).

The Armed Forces will maintain internal control in the above mentioned provinces while the measure is in force.

Uruguay

Security Services Mobilized After Bomb Threats

PY2703130892 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0008 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Mar (EFE)—It was reported today that the Uruguayan security services have been permanently mobilized in response to continuous bomb threats that for one week have been interrupting the activities of various state and private offices and Jewish community organizations.

All of the threats were made over the telephone, but as happened today, they forced the suspension of evening work at the State Insurance Bank headquarters, a private bank branch office, and a public school.

The authorities ordered the buildings evacuated as a preventive measure and, after careful inspection by the specialized services, confirmed that there were no bombs.

Police suspect the threats are being made by a group of "pranksters" who are taking advantage of the uneasiness existing in the country after the 17 March attack in which the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires was blown up.

The source told EFE that, nevertheless, all security measures must be taken in response to any call warning of a terrorist act.

The recent threats involved an Israeli legation, a synagogue, and a Jewish sports club.

On 23 March, four people, including one carrying a 7.65 pistol and a grenade casing [carcasa] purchased as a decorative item, were detained near the Israeli Embassy.

The authorities have reported that the armed person is a local merchant who has a license to carry weapons.

The detainees were quickly released, but authorities noted their untimely presence 30 meters from the embassy during a demonstration to protest the attack in Buenos Aires.

Labor Minister on Salary Adjustment Issue

PY2503200192 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Report by Jorge Vignola from mobile unit]

[Excerpt] The Labor and Social Security Ministry finally has announced the salary guidelines. The adjustment index for the private sector will not exceed 35 percent in a year. This was reported by Labor and Social Security Minister Alvaro Carbone to entrepreneurs and workers meeting this afternoon at the Labor and Social Security Ministry.

The executive branch also voiced its opinion that the government should not participate in the salary bargaining.

In a document released this afternoon at the Labor and Social Security Ministry, it is noted that the competitiveness of the productive sector could be jeopardized if this year's increases exceed the aforementioned index. In this case, the executive branch will not ratify those agreements.

On the other hand, the PIT-CNT [Interunion Workers Plenum- National Convention of Workers] immediately expressed its rejection of the salary guidelines announced by Minister Carbone. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Publishes Economic Indexes

PY2703205392 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Summary] The Central Bank has released its monthly report. It states that during the first two months of 1992, compared to the same period last year, meat exports increased by 23.8 percent; wool exports dropped by 1.2 percent; gasoline prices increased by 20.9 percent; fuel oil prices increased by 12.4 percent; gas oil prices increased by 6.8 percent; electricity prices increased by 26 percent; and the number of construction permits issued increased by 15.1 percent. The number of housing units built by the Mortgage Bank, however, dropped by 23.7 percent.

Venezuela

Imprisoned Coup Plotters Stage 'Rebellion'

PA2903144892 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1400 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 29 Mar (DPA)—Security at the Caracas military prison was increased on 29 March after authorities quelled a rebellion among the officers arrested after the February uprising.

The prisoners, led by coup leader Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, managed to evade guards at the San Carlos Garrison, located in the heart of Caracas. They approached the wall surrounding the facilities, where relatives and sympathizers were waiting to enter the prison. The rebels did not leave the prison.

Rear Admiral Jose Huizi, Defense Ministry spokesman, reported that Chavez shouted slogans against President Carlos Andres Perez' government to the approximately 1,000 persons gathered outside. He was subdued by a group of military guards shortly thereafter.

The National Guard launched a large operation to repress the demonstration. At the last minute, however, the security forces refrained from using violence.

The incident is one in a series of public statements made by leaders of the foiled 4 February military coup; statements which have given them notoriety.

The newspaper EL GLOBO published what is reportedly a public declaration issued by the coupists in which they accuse Perez of "betraying the homeland" in his handling of negotiations with Colombia over the Gulf of Venezuela and demand that the talks be stopped.

Further on Coupists' Demands

PA2903134892 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2249 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 28 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Leaders of the failed 4 February coup d'etat accused Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez of "treason against the fatherland" for promoting negotiations in a border conflict with Colombia, claiming these talks are against the nation's interests.

According to a document signed by the rebels and published by the newspaper EL GLOBO, the president's "personal ideology moves him to continually violate the Constitution." This violation occurs in relations with Colombia and in Perez' supposedly interventionist pretensions.

In light of the illegitimacy of the Perez government—51 percent of Venezuelans do not approve of the government—the so-called Bolivarian Movement MBR 200 demands the suspension of border negotiations with Colombia, including those involving maritime issues and underwater areas in the Gulf of Venezuela.

The document, signed by five lieutenant colonels, three majors, and three captains, demands the immediate resignation of the presidential negotiating commission involved in talks with Colombia.

The commission, which is attempting to end an old border conflict that almost plunged both nations into war in 1987, is composed of representatives of the three main Venezuelan political parties.

According to the text of the document, the Colombian "oligarchy and government" maintain a threatening attitude in the negotiations, which includes negative comments about new Venezuelan Foreign Minister Humberto Calderon Berti and pressure by his colleague Neomi Sanin when she was Colombia's ambassador to Venezuela.

The suspension would continue until the end of Perez' administration in February 1994 to avoid handing over soverei nty to the neighboring nation and to avoid "confrontation between brotherly nations," the document adds.

The allegation is based on the fact that the San Pedro Alejandrino Act, signed in 1990, "foresaw the failure of bilateral negotiations over the Gulf of Venezuela" and opened the door to eventual intervention by third parties in the conflict—to Venezuela's detriment, according to the rebels.

The rebels condemned efforts made by former Foreign Ministers Enrique Tejera Paris and Reinaldo Figuereda, as well as those of former Defense Minister Hector Jurado, whom they accused of "misinforming" the public on the scope of the negotiations.

The document states that "under the cover of false economic integration (the presidential commissioners) harbor the commission's true goal: To allow Colombia to satisfy completely its vital interests without just compensation for Venezuela."

According to the document, the Perez government is bent on solving Colombia's communications and infrastructure problems on the northwestern part of their common border, some 2,200 km, including allowing the passage of oil pipelines through Venezuelan territory to avoid their being blown up by guerrillas.

The document says the energy installations constructed in western Venezuela sell energy on the border with Colombia "at five times less than what the government charges Venezuelans."

The document alleges Perez would be involved in illegal businesses by his giving priority to electrical and navigation projects on the border.

"We cannot understand or accept that while the Venezuelan people go hungry and plead for economic, social, political, legal, and moral justice, the president establishes these projects as top priority for the integration process," the coupists add.

They also censured Perez' insistent support of a multinational invasion against Haiti in wake of the coup d'etat that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991.

"The actions described and the circumstances that surround them (...) shape up the crime of treason by the nation's Armed Forces commander in chief."

Another alleged violation of the principles of nonintervention and self-determination "that have always ruled our relations with other nations," was Perez' request at UN Headquarters to "sensationalize" the nation's sovereignty to benefit "supranationality."

They recalled the recent visit to Caracas by Luigi Einaudi, U.S. ambassador to the OAS, who told Venezuelan Armed Forces officers that Washington would not allow a coup d'etat in this country.

They also claimed that THE NEW YORK TIMES editorial suggesting the creation of "a force to invade

Venezuela" was the result of direct or indirect efforts by Perez to pave the way for a scenario "similar to the one he wanted for Haiti."

Perez Urges Defense of Latin American Democracy

PA2903025992 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1951 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Mar (NOTIMEX)—In an interview published on 28 March in the Mexican daily EL NACIONAL, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez called for the establishment of supranational rights for the defense of Latin American democracies.

Perez added that he has always criticized the current international financial system. However, he stressed that if Venezuela had not reached an agreement with the IMF, it would be facing extremely high inflation and a "really dramatic" situation.

"Regrettably, in defending the nonintervention principle, we in Latin America have indirectly supported dictatorships, because whenever a dictatorship was installed here, that principle favored the dictator, not the people who had lost their sovereignty," he said.

He stressed that the nonintervention concept "should accept the existence of supranational rights, which must be defended by the region not as a right of each state, but as a right of the entire Latin American region."

One of those rights, he added, is the right to demand respect for the people's sovereignty as expressed at the polls by the inhabitants of a country, reiterating that "this right must be defended multilaterally."

In what EL NACIONAL's reporter described as an urgent call to the OAS, Perez stressed the need to establish supranational rights to defend Latin American democracies, which "are getting stronger but are still weak."

Regarding the package of economic measures recommended to Venezuela by the IMF and the World Bank, which have caused discontent among the population, Perez said that "they have already implemented."

He said it is silly to continue to talk about those measures because they were already instituted. That package, he added, consisted of economic adjustments that were carried out between 1989 and 1990. He assured that since 1991 "we have received the benefits of the macroeconomic adjustments."

The economic package included the liberation of prices, the elimination of foreign exchange controls, the opening of the economy, and commercial and financial reforms.

"I have always criticized the international monetary system because it has many unjust factors that do not take into consideration the reality of our Latin American world or the developing world. That has created misunderstandings on important measures," he stressed.

He said that it is necessary to continue to struggle for a more just economic system in the world. He noted, however, that Latin America must take part in the current international financial system because there are no local economies: "We cannot isolate ourselves from the world."

He reiterated that if Venezuela had not reached an agreement with the IMF, it would be confronting massive inflation and a very dramatic situation.

Congress Accepts Bill To Reform Constitution

PA2803035092 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0146 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The Venezuelan Congress accepted a bill to reform the Constitution at a joint meeting held on 27 March. If the bill is approved, a constituent assembly would be called and other institutional changes implemented.

Former President Rafael Caldera, who is a senator and president of the Reforms Commission, stated: "These reforms are not the solution to the crisis in the country (after the foiled 4 February coup), but they do reflect the general feeling in the country. Several proposals contained in the bill are urgently demanded by the country."

In addition to the constituent assembly, the bill proposes that the posts of prime minister and defender of human rights be created and that a referendum be called to shorten the presidential term, without impinging on current President Carlos Andres Perez' term in office.

Both chambers will begin debate on the bill by 6 April at the latest. According to the Constitution, which has been in effect since 1961, the next step is the bill's approval. The bill has to be approved by two-thirds of the 201 deputies (134) and the same proportion of senators (32 of the 40 Senate members).

If congress approves the bill, a referendum must be called to approve or reject the proposal to reform the Constitution. The referendum would probably be called approximately three months after the bill has been approved.

Although the general feeling is that the Reforms Commission started to work after the February uprising, the commission members stressed they started working on the reforms two years ago.

Students Demonstrate in Ciudad Bolivar, Merida

PA2803004592 Paris AFP in Spanish 0018 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Mar (AFP)—University students organized violent demonstrations in Ciudad Bolivar, 600 km from Caracas, during a march in support of the military officers who staged a coup attempt on 4 February, the local news agency INNAC reported on 27 March.

During the march the students burned tires, a small mass transit bus, and a privately owned vehicle. They shouted slogans in favor of the coupist military officers and protested the rise in bread prices.

The demonstration was dispersed early in the afternoon without police intervention. Businesses closed their doors in case of vandalism.

On 27 March, a student demonstration also took place in Merida, a university city some 650 km southwest of Caracas, which resulted in the burning of a liquor store and a truck.

Contrary to what took place in Ciudad Bolivar, police forces repressed the demonstrators—including some hooded individuals—with tear gas, but there were no reports of injuries or arrests.

Minister Says No Students Injured in Valencia

PA2803140292 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Report by Rebeca Hung Diaz]

[Text] We waited an hour on 27 March to see Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz. Finally our patience was rewarded: The minister appeared on his way out of the office. He said he was surprised that students had not attended the meeting they requested to be informed of the famous 26 March events [banderazo] in Valencia. He added that, contrary to initial reports, no students had been injured in that incident and the only person injured—in addition to the four policemen—had a criminal record.

[Begin Pinerua Ordaz recording] The right to demonstrate is banned as long as constitutional guarantees are suspended. We will issue authorization for demonstrations once guarantees are restored. We hope and want to restore the guarantees soon, but the proper climate is required to do so. In accordance with the law, demonstrations may not disrupt public order. Demonstrators will have to follow the routes stipulated by the proper authorities. [end recording]

The minister asserted that confrontations have not been staged by protesting citizens but by professional agitators who want to destabilize the country.

COPEI Deputy Says 'Many' Plots Afoot

PA2703202892 Paris AFP in Spanish 1707 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Mar (AFP)—"The fingers of two hands will probably not be enough to account for the plots" in Venezuela, Social Christian Party [COPEI] Deputy Paciano Padron said on 27 March after meeting with officers of large garrisons in the vicinity of Caracas.

Padron criticized two leaders of his party who joined the coalition cabinet that President Carlos Andres Perez formed in March. Padron insists that the two years still remaining in Perez' term should be cut off.

"It is easier to overthrow the government now than it was prior to 4 February (when about 100 nationalist officers and leftists of the Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement rebelled, but failed) because nothing has changed in the past 50 days and the country's socioeconomic situation has worsened," Padron said.

"Not only that, the 4 February conspirators did not know that 90 percent of the Venezuelan people would side with them as they did, applauding the passage of armored personnel carriers and bayonets," he commented.

According to Padron, many people are followers of the rebels, "not because they are coupists or antidemocratic, but because they are fed up with Perez and those of us who have handled politics over the past few years."

Padron said that two days ago he met with officers in Maracay, the site of the country's largest air base and of the paratroop battalions that tried to capture Perez during the February coup attempt. Padron is convinced that "many, many plots are being prepared simultaneously."

"If a coup has not occurred, it is simply because of the deep disagreements in the Armed Forces and because the various factions are trying to reach a consensus to be able to strike," he said.

"That means that the coupists have not struck not because we are trying to solve civilian problems, but because the disagreements in military circles have precluded the coup. Unfortunately, this might lead to a civil war in which civilians could participate."

"I believe the majority of those truly involved in new coupist plots are outside the San Carlos quarters (a prison holding the February rebels) and in command and leadership positions in our Armed Forces," the leader added.

Padron played down party leaders' efforts to advance constitutional reform. Regarding Perez' announcements to check the most unpopular price increases, as well as other political and economic adjustments, Padron said: "It is necessary to act more rapidly, because everything is sliding downhill and people keep getting irritated."

Poll Shows Government Image Deteriorating

PA2903033692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2202 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 28 Mar (EFE)—Fifty percent of Venezuelans have a negative image of President Carlos Andres Perez' government, according to an opinion poll published today in Caracas.

According to a survey conducted throughout the country by the Mercanalisis firm in February and March, 25

percent of those interviewed described the government as "awful," and 26 percent as "bad."

While 39 percent described the government as "average," 8 percent said it is "good," and only 1 percent said it is "excellent."

The government's image was quite different in February 1991, when 14 percent described it as "awful," 19 percent as "bad," and 53 percent as "average."

The lowest level of support for the government was in the cities of Caracas, Valencia, and Maracay. The two latter cities are located in the central part of the country.

The survey indicated that former Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera is the most popular politician among Venezuelans.

Within the Social Christian Party, COPEI, Caldera is supported by 52 percent, while Eduardo Fernandez, the party's secretary general has the support of 29 percent.

According to the survey, combining the favorable opinion Caldera has within COPEI and the support he has within the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) and other political forces that would support him as a presidential candidate, he has a 97 percent preference.

In questions concerning the country's economic situation, 23 percent said they believe it will improve; 28 percent believe it will remain the same; 40 percent believe it will deteriorate; and 8 percent said they did not know.

Regarding the intentions of the soldiers who participated in the 4 February coup attempt, 47 percent said they meant "to overthrow the government and impose a military regime;" 17 percent said they intended "to kill the president;" 16 percent said they meant "to put an end to corruption;" and 15 percent said they wanted "to improve the country."

The poll also showed that 60 percent of Venezuelans would reject another military coup attempt, 24 percent would support it, 11 percent would remain indifferent, and 5 percent did not reply.

In December 1991, 33 percent of Venezuelans were in favor of a coup d'etat, while 53 percent were against it.

New Education Minister, Petroven Board Appointed

PA2803042892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez swore in Pedro Augusto Beauperthuy as new education minister and the Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. [Petroven] board of directors during a ceremony held at the Miraflores Palace. The new Petroven president is Gustavo Roosen. Beauperthuy has had a lengthy career as a university professor. He also served as president of the Oriente University and governor of Monagas State.

In addition to Roosen, the new Petroven board members include Frank Alcock as first vice president and Mario Rodriguez as second vice president. Edgar Leal, Arevalo Guzman Reyes, Jesus Alberto Lauria, Cesar Piebe Duarte, Arnaldo Salazar, and Aristides Bermudez were confirmed in their post as Petroven directors. The new members of the Petroven board of directors are: Nestor Ramirez and Cesar Rojas Vivas. Hector Risquezes, Juan Mendoza Pimentel, and Carlos Ortega were confirmed as alternate directors. Luis Yusti is a new alternate.

In his first statements as Petroven President, Roosen announced the possibility that his group will cut spending in the expansion program.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Roosen] ...our challenges and the way the economy is right now. Second, we will coordinate with the Energy and Mines Ministry on the oil policy to be implemented by the government. Third, we will support and promote Petroven's major investment programs, such as the Cristobal Colon project and the refineries under construction in the country. We will encourage the growing Petroven participation abroad—in Europe and the United States—and promote activities in the field of petrochemicals that are important or fundamental to the country's economic development, whether through joint ventures or direct investments. In sum, we will maintain control over Petroven's budget.

To achieve that goal, we have the experience of a board of directors with a strong background in the industry. It will be up to me to coordinate with them in a team spirit to seek understanding and consideration in our relations among ourselves and with the different industry coordinators and subsidiaries.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the industry's expansion plans continue?

[Roosen] As you know, the outgoing board members have reviewed the possibility of cutting back on expansion plans. I do not know the details or the nature of those cuts, although Rafael Guevara, minister of energy and mines, informed me of the discussions he had with the former board members on the need to reprogram investments. In addition, Coordination and Planning Minister Ricardo Hausmann and Finance Minister Pedro Rosas have told me of the need to make cuts in 1992. I am not familiar enough with the details to discuss the topic. [end recording]

New Education Minister Beauperthuy, a veteran of this sector, gave some details regarding his appointment.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Beauperthuy] ...taking office as minister. I must also tell you that I am not a newcomer in this field. I have been working in education for 27 years. The most important thing would be to call on all the sectors involved in this sector—students, teachers, education authorities, and unions—to become committed to making education work. I think that is the most important thing. Making education work would be a major challenge for this country.

[Reporter] How about agreements with university unions, considering you served as president of Oriente University?

[Beauperthuy] We must maintain a fruitful and constructive dialogue with all sectors, as I said, but chiefly with the unions and the higher education sector. We will certainly do that. We will also maintain dialogue with other sectors of education. [end recording]

* Caracas Residents Cite Reasons for Protests

92SM0317B Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 29 Feb 92 Section 1 p 18

[Article by Giuliana Chiappe: "A Night of Noise: The Pots Were Banged Because of Inflation"; first three paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] The message spread without any need for publicity. Until nearly midnight the central area of Caracas vibrated to the banging of pots and pans.

Various reasons led the people of Caracas to bang their pots and pans. They protested against inflation, drugs, corruption, and social disorder.

Children cried while people banged pots and pans, for they feared that their homes would be invaded by the police.

The message spread without any need for advertising posters. Some people suggested the idea of holding a demonstration, noisy but orderly, on the night of 27 February, a date easy to remember.

That was how Thursday night, 27 February, was spent: banging pots and pans and turning the electric lights off and on. By making noise and turning lights off and on people made their protest against the disturbances which occurred three years ago and against the presently difficult economic situation. Some people even took advantage of the occasion to support in their own way Hugo Chavez, the Army major who attempted to bring about a change in the government.

The reasons for banging pots and pans were different, and the length of time during which the noise lasted varied, depending on the area of the city.

Alix Perez said that conditions in her neighborhood forced her to join in the spectacle. She sells breaded turnovers and fruit juices at a shop and lives on upper Calle 23 Enero.

She said: "I banged the pots because they said that they were going to go into the houses of anyone who did not do it. Well, it was to protest against the high cost of living and against inflation."

In her street the noise lasted about 15 minutes. At 2000 people joined in beating the first pans. Alix and her five children participated.

She said: "Many people went out into the street, but I preferred to enjoy myself from inside my house."

Fear of the Police

Carmen Yasmin Toro, who is in sixth grade, recalled: "I also banged pots and pans and turned the light on and off. However, at the same time I began to cry. I was afraid that the police would enter the houses and destroy them."

Ileana del Valle, her 10 year old little sister, said that her mother beat the pots and pans for only a little while, but their neighbors set fires to make the protest stronger. They live in El Guarataro district.

Carolina Heredia, 13 years old, and Jose Gregorio Jimenez, 15, are members of the same extended family and live in Avenida Las Brisas de Propatria. Their house is three stories high, and they share it with their aunts, uncles and cousins, including Angel Acosta, who is nine years old.

Angel Acosta said: "I did not make any noise because I was afraid that the police would punish me. In my house only an aunt, who is young, made any noise. I preferred to watch television."

Carolina recalled the moment which frightened her the most: "The roof of my house is made of flat plastic material. Our neighbors began to throw rocks on it so that it would make a lot of noise."

Of the three children only Angel attends school. Now nine years old, she is in first grade. Carolina and Jose Gregorio said that they were not able to register at the nearby junior high school because of family problems.

Jose Gregorio said: "However, now I am getting together the papers to register for evening classes."

Disorderly Democracy

Antonio Jose Soto served as a sergeant in the Army Signal Corps in 1954. Now he is a supervisor of the trolley car line at the La Canada stop. He believes that the solution is to apply the law to everyone equally, though this will not stop abuses or corruption.

He said: "Now this democracy is in a state of disorder, because people do what they want. The law should be the same for everyone. By protesting with the pots and pans, they did not want to cause disturbances but rather promote the welfare of the people. People are protesting over the increase in fares, inflation, and the uncontrolled distribution of drugs. I would be in favor of having those wearing uniforms examined every month to determine who is abusing drugs."

On Calle 23 de Enero pot banging went on for four hours, ending at midnight.

In the same area live Miguel Hernandez, Jose Luis Mijares, and Hector Malave, who provide a kind of

trolley service with their taxis, supplementing the Metro for riders who get off at the Agua Salud station and head toward Calle 23 de Enero.

They said: "We heard guns going off, instead of the banging of pots and pans. People also burned tires and removed manhole covers to prevent vehicles from driving down the road."

They thought that the protests were caused by increases in the price of gasoline, bus fares, and the cost of all goods and services in general.

They said: "People 'know what they know.' There have been enough price increases. The workers cannot go home for lunch at home because bus fares are very high. They prefer to eat a hot dog from a street vendor."

They said that inflation hits them in particular when they go to a gasoline station.

They said: "Previously, a car could be filled up with gasoline for a little more than 100 bolivares. Now it costs almost 400 bolivares."

With Ministers and Everything

Luis Felipe Casimiro lives on upper Avenida Las Brisas de Propatria. However, he heard nothing in his house, nor did he know what was being planned.

He said: "I wish I had known. I would have banged a lot of pots and pans. I would protest against the disasters which are happening here and call for a change of government, with new cabinet ministers and everything, because the present cabinet is made up of the same kind of people who have always been here." He said this as he sold ice cream from his peddler's cart.

Ildemar Mesias said that in the La Candelaria area the noise went on for nearly four hours. He lives in Calle El Mirador in this neighborhood. When he heard the noise, he joined in with his pots and pans.

He said: "I remembered 27 February 1989 and everything that happened then. I decided to support the people and call for a new government, because the situation is critical." He said this while taking a break from his job as a cashier at a pharmacy.

It Was the Opposition

Amelia Yanez is a housewife and calls herself an AD [Democratic Action] supporter. She blamed the 27 February civic protest on the green opposition and the orange group.

She said: "This was a riot, where nothing was operating. Because of the MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] and COPEI [Social Christian Party] supporters, many people were not paid on 28 February. They went out into the street to beat pots and pans. That is not the way to bring down a government."

She said that in the San Martin area people went out onto the balconies of their apartments and beat pots, pans, and anything which would make noise.

She continued: "They also were firing guns and shouting from the El Guarataro area. This is where I live. I did not get involved in that. Only the boys went out to join in the protest."

An Old Story

The idea of making noise with pots and pans and turning out the lights is not new. The same thing happened almost 20 years ago in Chile, during the administration of President Salvador Allende.

The pots and pans in Chile began beating during the first few days of September 1973. On 11 September a second military uprising brought General Augusto Pinochet into the leadership of a dictatorship which lasted for more than 15 years.

On that occasion the night the pots and pans were banged was the preliminary to a military takeover.